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'No conspiracy with Sandline' My team is in the clear, says Cook

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND MICHAEL EVANS

ROBIN COOK fought back in the arms-to-Africa affair yesterday by suggesting that his hands were clean and provisionally clearing Foreign Office officials of any involvement in a breach of a UN arms embargo.



Cook: 'no evidence my officials were involved'

ministers or officials suggesting such a breach. Mr Cook swung behind them yesterday. He told MPs that the could not "allow wild allegations to continue to be made against the Foreign Office and its officials or to be recycled as proven fact."

dismissed "out of hand" Foreign Office claims that officials had warned its representatives not to breach the UN arms embargo. It insists that they approved the shipment of 35 tons of arms to the West African force, Ecomog, before the launch of the counter-coup.



Emma Thompson in Cannes yesterday. Primary Colors, in which the British actress stars with John Travolta, is stealing the film festival limelight. Page 9

Duke resisted Garter award to Emperor of Japan

BY GLEN OWEN AND ANDREW PIERCE

The Duke of Edinburgh has privately indicated his opposition to the Queen's decision to award England's highest order of chivalry to the Emperor of Japan.

is an understatement." The controversy generated by the decision to make Akhito an Extra Knight of the Garter has uncomfortable memories for some members of the Royal Family.

Shearer cleared. Alan Shearer was cleared of kicking Neil Lennon, of Leicester City, in the face.

Clinton to block aid for India after nuclear tests

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON threatened heavy sanctions against India yesterday and demanded that the Delhi Government halt all nuclear testing.

ment aid, banning loans from American banks and stopping exports of products with military uses such as computers.

Mary Bell's daughter shielded from media

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE media were banned yesterday from going within half a mile of the home or school of Mary Bell's daughter.

It is similar to injunctions protecting Robert Thompson and Jon Venables, the boys convicted of the murder of James Bulger.

Table with 2 columns: Category and Page number. Includes TV & Radio, Weather, Crosswords, Letters, etc.

Hodde backs Gascoigne's latest unsociable habit

BY MATT DICKINSON



PAUL GASCOIGNE has joined Sir Bobby Charlton, Gianluca Vialli and Johann Cruyff in one of football's more unusual claims to fame.

Gascoigne is indeed in a pantheon of great players who have managed to combine regular smoking with mastery of a football.

Gascoigne is indeed in a pantheon of great players who have managed to combine regular smoking with mastery of a football.



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'Gynaecologist joked as unborn twins died'

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE gynaecologist who treated Mandy Allwood during her eight-month pregnancy joked with a pregnant woman about her underwear while he made her watch him carrying out keyhole surgery on her dying unborn twins, the General Medical Council was told yesterday.

Kyprianos Nicolaides has denied serious professional misconduct over the way he behaved when he treated Jennifer Sabin, 41, during a laser operation. She had gone to see him because he was the only doctor in Britain who used laser surgery to treat the rare condition that affected her babies.

Mrs Sabin, from Morpeth, Northumberland, told the GMC's professional conduct committee that the professor made grossly offensive sexual remarks to her and seemed more interested in making flattering remarks about Newcastle upon Tyne than in looking after her and her babies.

She said she went to see

him at the Harris Birthright Centre at King's College Hospital, South London, after a scan at Newcastle's Royal Victoria Infirmary showed her babies had "twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome" — a usually fatal condition where one foetus gets too much blood and the other too little. After a procedure to reduce the level

of amniotic fluid failed she was referred to Professor Nicolaides, who has pioneered the use of laser surgery in Britain to treat the condition.

Mrs Sabin claimed that as she stood in a corridor of the hospital, a man who turned out to be the professor "rushed up, grabbed my stomach and prodded it". They went into an operating room and he told

These women cook for men who get drunk, beat them and have sex. And she wants a painkiller

her to lie on a couch. As she did so she raised her clothes, exposing her underwear and he said: "They must be London knickers — they are not Newcastle knickers." All this was in front of between 12 and 14 men, who might have been doctors or students.

Mrs Sabin said that when she asked what painkiller she

use the laser but every time it missed its target she could see her placenta "exploding into craters — it was just like the moon". During the treatment she said she was crying but the professor told her: "Stop shaking. You can take a little pain for the sake of your babies. Your babies are dying."

As blood began to flow he told his audience to leave before telling her "don't cry now. Cry later."

Mrs Sabin said the professor put his arm round Helen Potts, a friend she had brought with her to comfort her during the operation, and told her: "You're beautiful, stay with me all the time."

Previously he sat on the same chair as Mrs Potts and told her: "The heat from your body makes me go to heaven and work better." Mrs Sabin said she could not believe it when he started making sexual overtures to Mrs Potts as he was preparing to perform a delicate operation.

The hearing continues.



Nicolaides denies serious professional misconduct while conducting an operation

Theme pub 'glorifies killer's memory'

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE family of a murder victim are outraged by a plan to name a pub after the killer, a doctor who was hanged 62 years ago.

Buck Ruxton killed his wife, Isabella, 35, and housemaid, Mary Rogerson, 20, and dismembered their bodies in the bath at his home in Lancaster in 1935. He dumped the remains in a Scottish ravine known as the Devil's Beef tub.

The maid's relatives still live in Lancaster, where the Boar's Head, near the doctor's former house in the city centre, is to become Ruxton's after being refurbished.

Yesterday one of the relatives said: "This is horrible. The pub should not glorify Ruxton's name and make money out of what he did."

Marie Beninson, the pub's landlady, said: "We asked the customers and they suggested we do something on Buck Ruxton. We didn't want to offend anyone." She said that the pub would display Ruxton memorabilia but there would be no reference to Mary Rogerson.

Asian GP 'made arson attack appear racist'

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

AN ASIAN GP faked an arson attack on a nursing home he owned in an attempt to claim £1 million insurance money. He gave the game away, however, when he sprayed racist graffiti on the walls to make it seem that neo-Nazis were to blame, a court was told.

Police became suspicious because the National Front's NF logo was written as two letters instead of joined in the usual way. Cardiff Crown Court was told. Detectives then discovered that Mohammed Sabbuba had accumulated bank debts of £1 million because of failed business ventures.

Dr Sabbuba, 54, is accused of rigging a home-made timebomb to set fire to the empty Aneurin nursing home in Caerphilly. Police, who were called when the smoke alarms sounded in the early hours, extinguished the fire before it spread.

Philip Richards, for the prosecution, said a timer plugged into a power point was connected to an electric fire placed on petrol-soaked clothes. "The bars were red hot and the clothes were already smouldering. The ar-

sonist had also switched on the gas in the kitchens. If the police had not arrived when they did there would have been a significant explosion that would clearly have put lives in danger."

He said the doctor had gone to extreme lengths to make it seem like a racist attack. The jury was shown a video of sprayed graffiti reading "NF" and "You Black Bastard".

Mr Richards said: "The walls inside had been sprayed with racist graffiti. The letters NF were designed to relate the attack with the National Front. But police were alerted because it was not written in the usual style. It is clear this was a carefully planned scheme, not the act of a malevolent intruder."

Roger Bagstaff, a fire officer, told the court: "If the attempt had been successful the building would have been engulfed by fire. There could have been an explosion because of the gas. It was an attempt seriously to damage the building by fire."

Dr Sabbuba, of Energlyn, Caerphilly, denies attempted arson and being reckless as to whether life was endangered. The trial continues.



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Prisoners on cannabis to be treated more leniently

PRISONERS caught using cannabis are to be treated more leniently under a strategy that will concentrate on those using hard drugs.

The switch in tactics follows evidence that mandatory drug testing in the 140 jails of England and Wales has had little impact on the use of heroin and cocaine. Research also found that almost half the officers working on prison wings thought that cannabis use did not harm discipline and that 82 per cent of inmates thought that prisoners should not be punished for smoking cannabis.

George Howarth, the junior Home Office Minister, denied that the strategy announced yesterday meant the Government was condoning the use of cannabis in jails. He said it was targeting drugs that caused the most damage to inmates' health and to prison safety.

Mr Howarth told a press conference at Prison Service headquarters in Westminster: "We intend to take a more discriminatory approach to distinguish between suppliers, dealers and users, looking at drugs causing the most harm to individuals and prison safety, and those that are less damaging. I am not suggesting that we condone the use of certain drugs but that we pay

New tactics will concentrate on curbing heroin and cocaine after random tests in jails fail to work, reports Richard Ford

particular attention to the use of drugs that cause the most damage." He said that prisoners caught smoking cannabis would be punished but the penalty would reflect the way the world outside treated the drug as a less serious problem than heroin or cocaine. The strategy



Howarth: said hard drugs were bigger threat to safety

has prompted a private protest from Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, who, after seeing the document, said that it did not do enough to tackle the extent of drug misuse among the jail population of 65,000.

The review of the drug prevention strategy found that 44 per cent of officers working on prison wings agreed that use of cannabis was not detrimental to good order. The finding will increase suspicion that some officers turn a blind eye to soft drug use because it makes inmates easier to manage.

Research found that both prisoners and staff believed that mandatory drug testing, carried out in 66 jails, had been wrong to bear down on cannabis users. The research also found that although punishing inmates with extra days on their sentences was effective for young offenders and short-sentence prisoners, it was less effective for those serving long terms. The new strategy

suggests greater use of such punishments as closed visits and loss of privileges. This would have the added attraction of reducing the use of additional days, which are expensive and add up to the equivalent of more than 500 prison places a year.

The number of prisoners randomly tested each month will be halved to 5 per cent. Mr Howarth said that this would allow governors to concentrate tests on inmates known to be using hard drugs. It would also permit more voluntary testing by prisoners who want to demonstrate that they are free of drugs in order to earn privileges, he said.

The National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders said: "Moves to develop more treatment programmes are particularly welcome. The evidence shows that every pound spent on drug treatment programmes saves the taxpayer £7, mostly from a reduction in drug-related crime. Increasing the number of voluntary testing units — sometimes called drug-free wings — is also an important step."

The Standing Conference on Drug Abuse welcomed the new policy, but the charity called on the Prison Service to explain where it would find the extra money needed.



Ray Mallon, who led the crime-reduction policy, and Colin White, who missed its target

Detective shows zero tolerance of own failure

By PAUL WILKINSON

A POLICE officer who promised to resign if he failed to cut crime by 20 per cent within 18 months has kept his word after narrowly missing his target.

Detective Inspector Colin White will leave his job with the Zero Tolerance team in Middlesbrough to return to a uniformed position in another division.

He and two other senior officers set the crime reduction target for the town when they were appointed in November 1996, but the figures for last month, their deadline, show a drop of only 17 per cent. Yesterday Mr White, 41, said: "We didn't quite reach the target and I am a man of my word, so it is right that I move on."

The other two officers are no longer with the team, which is at the centre of a corruption inquiry. Detective Superintendent Ray Mallon, Mr White's commander and the man behind the zero tolerance policy, is suspended as part of the investigation, and Detective Inspector Russ Daglish is on extended sick leave.

Mr White said: "I am very proud of what we achieved in Middlesbrough. We became the role model for forces across Britain. There are legitimate reasons why we

didn't achieve the target but I am not trying to make excuses. "I helped to build up the team that brought a zero tolerance of crime to the streets and we had great success. Recently there have been a lot of changes in personnel within the CID. A new team is being created and I feel it's time for someone else to take the lead."

The figures show that the monthly crime total was 2,099 when they took over. By summer 1997 the 20 per cent target had been achieved, but soon after, as the Police Complaints Authority began its corruption inquiry, the success rate started to slip. By the end of the year it was 18 per cent and as more officers were suspended the figures slipped again. Yesterday Cleveland police confirmed that the total number of recorded offences in Middlesbrough for April 1998 was 1,740.

Mr White said: "We had the criminals on the run but no force in Britain could have withstood the upheaval we have seen and not been affected. However, the criminals should not think they have it made. There is a dedicated team of new detectives at Middlesbrough and I am confident they will soon achieve the targets we set."

Police abandon getaway cars

By PAUL WILKINSON

A POLICE force is phasing out its diesel-engined patrol cars because criminals can hear them coming. Officers in Northumbria say the sound of their Ford Fiestas is almost as well known to criminals as a warning siren — and gives them time to get away.

Tony Crummen, the Assistant Chief Constable, said that patrol officers had never been happy with the diesels. "Officers found it difficult to approach the scene of trouble without the noise of the diesel engine giving advance warning of their arrival. Petrol

engines are mechanically more efficient and the difference in operating costs is now negligible. Experts have since changed their minds on the environmental advantages of diesel power."

Gordon Arnott, a force spokesman, said that the diesel cars would be replaced over three years. "So far 50 cars have been replaced and there are 100 of the old Ford Fiestas still to go."

He added: "There is no question of money being wasted because the cars are regularly replaced anyway."

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Rail passengers given choice of speed or cost

A FIGHT for passengers will break out this month on one of the more tranquil sections of the privatised rail network. In one of the fiercest outbreaks of competition, passengers in Suffolk will be lured with offers of cheaper tickets or faster services.

Great Eastern, the company that last year tried to persuade its passengers to become train guards, is mounting an offensive based heavily on price, knocking up to 30 per cent off its fares. Its rival, Anglia Railways, will play the quality card, promising faster, more frequent services and a higher standard of carriages.

Rival companies offer different ticket prices for the same trip, reports Arthur Leathley

passengers use the Ipswich-London route each year and both companies have seen passenger numbers grow by up to 10 per cent in the past year. Anglia will launch a £17 "two for the price of one" offer on the Ipswich-London route, although journeys will have to be booked the day before travel.

Great Eastern's revenue. Now Great Eastern is determined to fight back by wooing custom from Anglia. Great Eastern will claim as its best gambit day-trip fares from Ipswich to London of £16.90, a 16 per cent reduction. The company will offer savings of £468 a year on an annual ticket. In return, Anglia will proclaim that its peak-time service is 13 minutes faster than its rival's and that its rolling stock is in better condition.



The oldest swingers still hit town at 72

BY A CORRESPONDENT
A COUPLE aged 72 have shown their grandchildren what it is to be young at heart and in limb. Jack and Jean Atkinson go clubbing four nights a week and are usually the last to leave. When their neighbours are ready for bed, Mr and Mrs Atkinson change into club gear and head for their favourite hotspot, Visage, in Huddersfield, returning at about 3am. They reckon they have danced 650 nights away in three years — surrounded by teenagers.

Clubs give jobless youngsters a goal

BY NICHOLAS WOOD
ENGLAND'S top football clubs will today join forces with the Prince of Wales to unveil plans to help 10,000 jobless young people to get back to work. The £15 million scheme will be launched at the training ground of the Premiership side Newcastle United. Their squad for Saturday's FA Cup final against Arsenal will line up with a team of 18 to 24-year-olds who will use the club as a base for finding work.

Warehouse raid nets 3,000 fake World Cup footballs

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES
THOUSANDS of counterfeit World Cup footballs have been seized by trading standards officers after a covert surveillance operation. The cheaply made copies bearing the Mitre brand name and the England "three lions" logo were ready for distribution to shops and markets. Operation United began with a tip-off that led to a warehouse in Exeter. Investigators kept the building under observation for two weeks before a raid in which they found more than 3,000 poor-quality balls, made in India. A further 500 were retrieved from local stores. They were on sale for between £5 and £8 compared with about £12 for a genuine ball.



Spot the counterfeit ball: the cheap copy is on the left

Huge crowd to watch whales play

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT
WHALE and dolphin watching will become a \$1 billion (£600 million) industry in 1998 with Britain and Iceland showing the fastest growth in Europe, it was claimed yesterday. A report released at a meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Oman and funded by the International Fund for Animal Welfare says eight million people worldwide will watch the mammals this year, generating more income than hunting did at its peak — often in hard-pressed coastal communities.

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Film-makers cash in on criminal activity

Dalya Alberge reports from the Cannes Film Festival on new releases

FILM-MAKERS are hoping that crime will pay with the release of a batch of films about real-life criminals.



Cahill after being shot dead in Dublin by the IRA

Lord Lucan, who went missing after his children's nanny was murdered, and Martin Cahill, Dublin's most notorious outlaw who orchestrated one of the century's most daring art robberies, are among those being immortalised on the big screen.

The story of Cahill is told in *The General*, written, produced and directed by John Boorman and being premiered at the festival.

Cahill, who terrorised the community for 20 years with thefts and hold-ups in banks and supermarkets, is remembered for his viciousness: he had a gang member nailed to the floor for allegedly siphoning off part of a £2 million gold robbery. He became known as "The General" because his thefts were planned with military precision.

The black and white film stars Brendan Gleeson and Jon Voight. It includes Cahill's famous raid on the Beit Collection at Russborough House, a stately home near Dublin, when several old masters were stolen in 1986.

Boorman said: "It's a story of an iconoclast. Cahill invented his own world, his own rules and lived by them. He took on the police, the State and the Church and beat them with his wit and cunning. But

he was also brutal and violent and controlled his gang with a rod of iron. The film explores this complexity." Boorman said Cahill viewed the IRA as "just another aspect of authority and defied them as he did all others". They shot him dead in 1994.

The Lucan movie is called *The Gentleman Vanishes*, but little else about the film is being disclosed by Front Page Films, its British makers. The project is in the early stages of development, with a likely budget of £5 million. So far it has neither a cast nor a director.

The earl, who would now be 63, is still on the police's most-wanted list, 24 years after he allegedly bludgeoned to death the family's nanny and attacked his wife. There are still occasional claimed sightings. Philip Knatchbull, the execu-

utive producer, said that he has not contacted Lady Lucan and that she is unlikely to know about the project.

Another real-life former criminal getting the silver-screen treatment is Howard Marks. Marks, 53, who has had a couple of meetings with the film-makers and is said to have welcomed the project, read physics at Balliol College, Oxford, before embarking on a postgraduate career of smuggling hashish worldwide. He was eventually extradited from Spain to the United

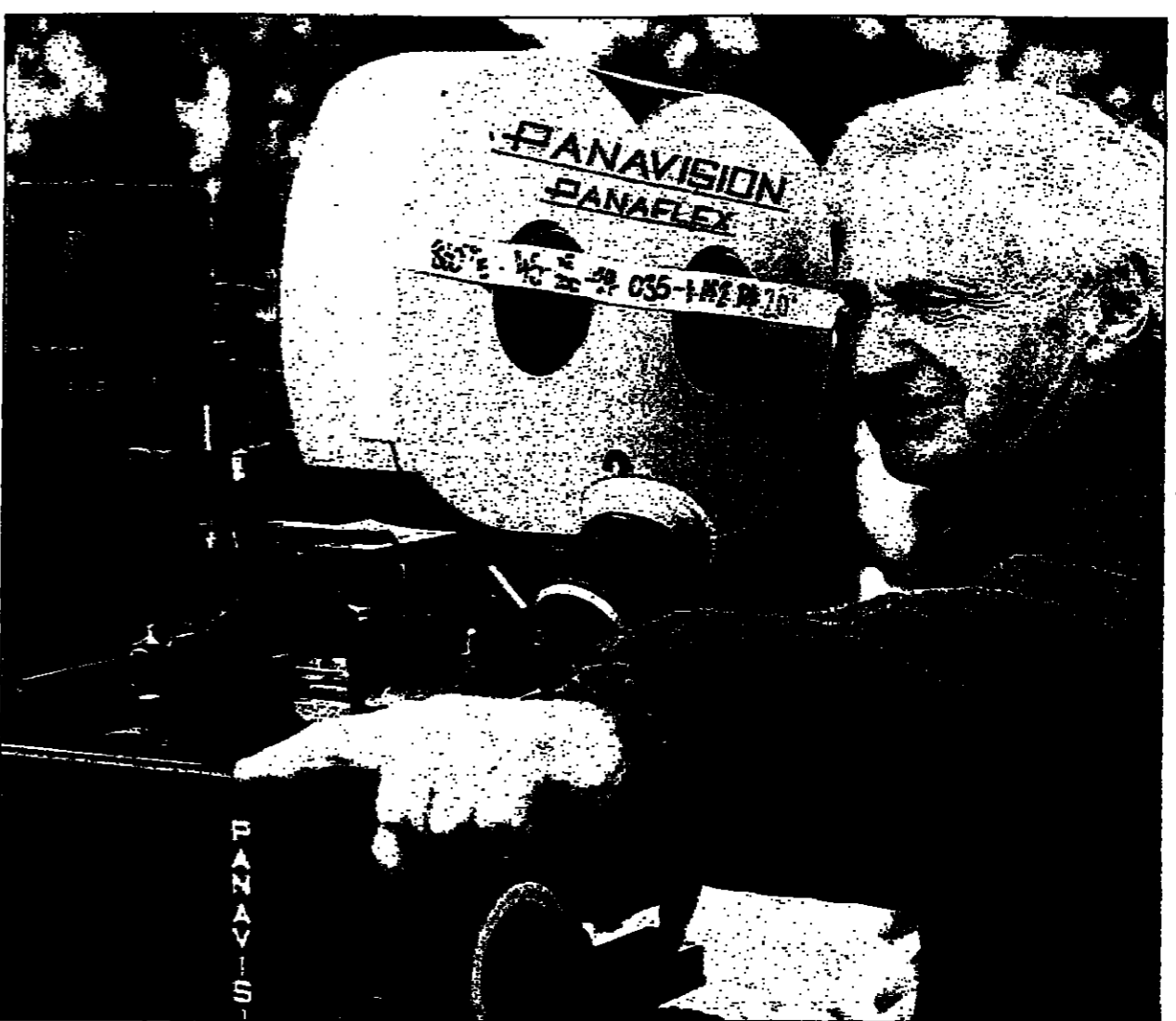
States where he was jailed for seven years.

Noting how Marks these days campaigns for the legalisation of soft drugs, Mr Jones said that the film does not do so.

Among other real-life crimes inspiring film-makers are the fakes produced by Henricus Van Meegeren. He deceived the art world with his steady supply of Vermeers but was unmasked in 1945 when he had to confess all to avoid being branded a Nazi collaborator. Nicholas Hytner, the British director, is developing a script entitled *Fakes*.

Another art theft, part of the Van Eyck *Adoration of the Lamb* stolen from Ghent in 1934, is being filmed by Itenera Films in Belgium.

Ewan McGregor, the British actor, has finishing filming *Rogue Trader*, the story of Nick Leeson, who is in jail in Singapore for the trading losses that destroyed Barings Bank in 1995; and Ian Holm and Mickey Rourke have been cast in a film about Shergar, the Derby winner stolen in 1981.



Boorman, whose film *The General* tells the story of Martin Cahill, one of Ireland's most violent criminals



Lucan, left, and Marks: stories make them stars



Scorsese's view counts for gold

BY DALYA ALBERGE

MARTIN SCORSESE, who won the Palme d'Or in 1976 for *Taxi Driver*, is president of the jury, a ten-strong committee of judges that includes Sigourney Weaver, the actress, and Michael Winterbottom, the British director.

The films that are already stealing the limelight are Mike Nichols's *Primary Colors*, the European premiere of a political satire starring John Travolta and Emma Thompson as an American president and First Lady who bear more than a passing resemblance to the Clintons.

Lars von Trier, the Danish director who won the Palme d'Or in 1996 for his love story *Breaking the Waves*, is presenting his latest film, *The Idiots*. The film, about a group of twentysomethings who pretend to be idiots, includes explicit scenes that

have upset the Swedish and Norwegian censors.

Ken Loach is premiering *My Name is Joe* — a romance set in Glasgow — and Terry Gilliam is screening *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, an adaptation of Hunter S. Thompson's book. It stars Johnny Depp.

Miranda Richardson will be flying in for *The Apostle*, directed and written by Robert Duvall, and John Hurt will be coming for *All the Little Animals*, directed by the British producer Jeremy Thomas. His latest venture is a contemporary fable based on Walker Hamilton's 1968 novel about an orphaned boy who escapes the threat of death at the hands of his stepfather. Derek Jacobi is coming for his portrayal of the painter Francis Bacon in *Love is the Devil*.



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Three fundamental disagreements still divide security company and the Foreign Office ministers

Sandline affair riddled with contradictions

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE DISPUTE

THE Government and Sandline International, the firm founded by Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer, are engaged in an increasingly bitter war of words, with each trying to show that the other is to blame in the arms-for-Africa fiasco. One element of the affair where there seems to be no disagreement is the claim that Foreign Office officials did have contact with Sandline representatives before the operation that led to the overthrow of the military junta in Sierra Leone.

The only other element where there is complete agreement between the two sides is that Sandline has never claimed, either in its letter of April 24 to Robin Cook, or in subsequent statements, that any representative of the security company discussed sending arms to Sierra Leone with the Foreign Secretary himself or with Tony Lloyd.

Every other aspect of the affair is riddled with contradictions, claims and counter-claims. **□ The first disagreement:** this emerged when the story alleging Foreign Office approval for an "illegal" shipment of arms to Sierra Leone broke on May 3. The Foreign Office issued an immediate statement on Mr Cook's behalf, saying that no ministerial approval had been given for Sandline's activities. In his first comments, Mr Cook said he had "deep concern" about the conduct of some of his officials and expressed annoyance that ministers had not been told of the meetings with Sandline. However, Sandline, in its letter to the Foreign Secretary dated April 24, released by the company on May 8, claimed that in discussions with Foreign Office officials from the Africa Department (Equatorial), the clear impression had been given that there was full government backing for the proposed operation.

On May 3, however, Mr Cook said: "What I can confirm is that there was no ministerial approval for any activity by Sandline, no contact by ministers with Sandline, no discussions by ministers with Sandline."

□ The second disagreement: this was over the interpretation of the United Nations arms embargo. Sandline claimed that arms shipments to Ecomog, the Nigerian-led West African peacekeeping force in Sierra Leone, were not in breach of the embargo, because the spirit of the UN sanctions was to penalise the military junta, not the democratically elected President Kabbah, the ousted leader. The company said that because the arms went to the Ecomog forces there was no breach of the UN embargo.

Mr Cook's department rejected that interpretation. His spokesmen and the Foreign Office's lawyers said there was no doubt that the UN embargo covered the whole of Sierra Leone, whether it affected "the good guys or the bad guys".

That statement was somewhat blurred by Tony Blair when he said on Monday that there was a lot of "hoo-ha" about the Sierra Leone affair. He focused on the fact that an elected President had been returned to power.

□ The third disagreement: Foreign Office officials acting on behalf of Mr Cook put it about that the named diplomats who had met Sandline representatives warned them not to breach the UN arms embargo.

Sandline yesterday dismissed "out of hand" any allegations or statement made by unnamed Foreign Office sources that the company had been warned it would be breaching sanctions in its plans for Sierra Leone.



Tim Spicer: Sandline "did not break UN embargo"



Robin Cook: "Deep concern about officials' conduct"

Tycoon linked to arms affair in legal battle

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN VANCOUVER

A PIVOTAL figure in the Sierra Leone arms affair emerged from a Canadian jail yesterday to fight efforts by the Thai Government to extradite him on charges of embezzlement.

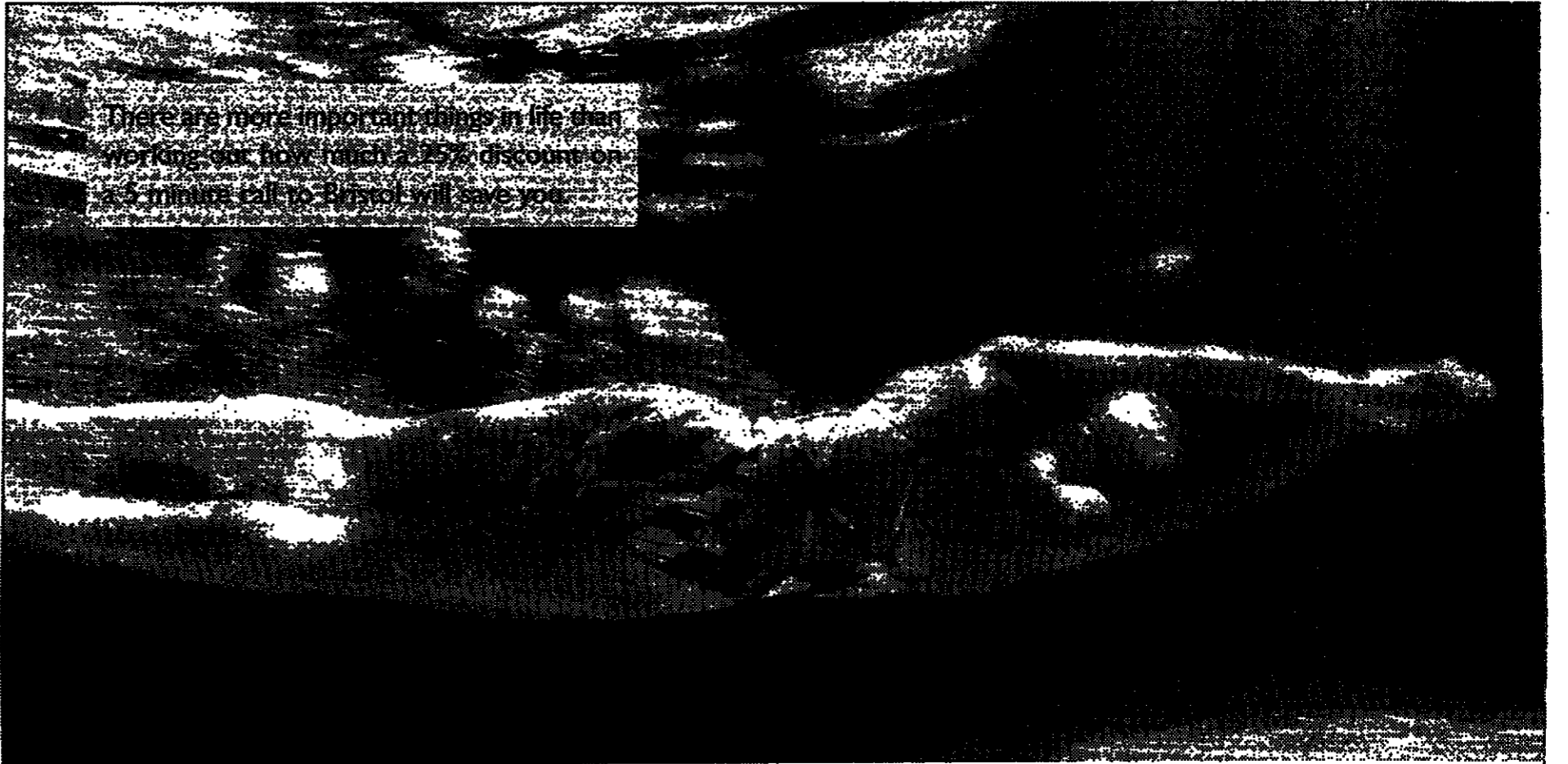
Rakesh Saxena, the Indian-born tycoon who is said to have helped to pay for Sandline International's involvement in reinstating President Kabbah of Sierra Leone, is also wanted by the Royal Thai Police for allegedly fleeing the Bangkok Bank of Commerce of up to £1.3 billion before fleeing Thailand two years ago.

Not only does Mr Saxena claim to have helped install President Kabbah's regime, he is also accused of triggering the collapse of Banham Silpaarcha's Government halfway round the world in Thailand in 1996. According to a lengthy investigation by *The Vancouver Sun*, Mr Saxena, who had been a financial adviser to the Thai Government and treasurer of the Bangkok Bank of Commerce, fled the country as police began looking into reports of missing bank funds as well as bribes and low interest loans to Thai govern-

ment officials. Tracked down by a Canadian business reporter, Mr Saxena was reported last year to be living in the exclusive Lion's Bay suburb north of Vancouver.

As the Silpaarcha Government collapsed under the Opposition's bribe-taking allegations, the Royal Thai Police dispatched a delegation to arrest Mr Saxena in Canada. The fugitive reportedly took his pursuers to lunch and it was left to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to arrest Mr Saxena after raiding the luncheon to find \$100,000 in various currencies lying on the table, Canadian police reported.

Released on bail, Mr Saxena was rearrested in January when Canadian officials deemed him a flight risk. In the meantime, he had met Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer of Sandline International and paid him for a feasibility study to determine whether Sierra Leone was ready for a coup, he said at the weekend. Mr Saxena, who has close links with both President Kabbah and Adnan Khashoggi, the Saudi arms dealer, has business interests in Sierra Leone.



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Dreams of plenty turn to dust as Turkmenistan's riches are wasted



Huge Niyazov posters adorn public buildings

THEY thought they were on the threshold of becoming the Kuwait of the Caspian. Now the inhabitants of this dusty desert republic, which sits on the world's fourth largest reserves of natural gas, are facing bankruptcy.

Bust comes before boom, reports Michael Dynes in Ashgabat

who still runs the country, complete with Niyazov aftershave, watches and vodka, has spurred offers of help from the International Monetary Fund, while at the same time squandering scarce national resources on huge palaces and other vainglorious monuments.

buildings. Millions of dollars are being wasted on a vast concrete monument to himself, including an illuminated 10ft revolving statue. National television has his bust in the top right-hand corner of the screen. It is a personality cult that would make even a Stalinist cringe.

around the corner when it achieved independence from Moscow in 1991. Throughout the Soviet era, it had fed the former Soviet Union's industrial heartlands with billions of dollars of natural gas. Apart from the occasional shipment of shoddy Soviet industrial goods, it received little in return.

shut the country's pipeline routes to the north. And it will take years and billions of dollars to build new ones. Turkmenistan has not sold any gas since March of last year. Having sold vast amounts of cotton on the world's futures markets, it then failed to deliver. Consequently, it has been blacklisted by the world markets, and has not been able to sell any cotton either.

lapsed. "They can't do that for much longer," one analyst said. "It is only a matter of time before the crunch comes." Last September Turkmenistan launched its first international licensing round for oil and gas exploration in the Caspian Sea. Shell is exploring the possibility of building a gas pipeline to Iran. Unocal wants to build a pipeline through war-ravaged Afghanistan. Monument Oil and Gas, an independent British company, has begun shipping small volumes of oil to Iran. But it will be five to ten years, if at all, before such high-cost ventures pay off.

A British adviser said: "It is the most inefficient country I have ever come across, and I doubt if things will ever change."



Euro-MPs pass law on genetic patents

Charles Bremner reports on anger over a 'Frankenstein's charter'

AFTER a decade of emotional opposition, the European Parliament yesterday approved an EU-wide biotechnology invention law that will allow patents based on the genes of humans, animals and plants.

discoveries, such as identification of a human gene sequence. Farmers will also be allowed to use genetically treated harvests and offspring of modified animals for reproduction on their own property without payment to patent holders. In one controversial provision, however, patents are allowed for human parts when researchers find a way to reproduce them outside the body.

De Clercq, chairman of the Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee. The waning of opposition was brought about partly by the backing of support groups for sufferers of various conditions. Initially critical, they argued that patenting was necessary to encourage research into hereditary diseases such as muscular dystrophy, cancer, haemophilia and Alzheimer's disease.

and reinforce the EU-wide market. The new directive will not substantially change existing British patent law, the Government said. Without clear protection, pharmaceutical companies would seek a guarantee of return on their investment by moving elsewhere, depriving the EU of the benefits of an industry that is expected to dominate the 21st century, the Government argued.



Green deputy Daniel Cohn-Bendit hoists a protest flag in Strasbourg yesterday

Germans find zoo's policy hard to bear

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

CLUTCHING toy teddy bears, about 250 animal rights campaigners, their faces streaked with tears, protested in St Nicholas's Church in Leipzig against the killing of two brown bears that were fed to tigers in the local zoo.

The church service has been followed by an injunction against zoo managers by the German Animal Protection League, which has more than 700,000 members; nationwide protests are being planned. German zoos such as those in Nuremberg and Leipzig have been trying to thin down their surplus of bears and antelopes by putting them down and giving them as fodder to other carnivores.

The law, in fact, is rather vague: "It is forbidden to cause pain or suffering to an animal without reasonable grounds." Nuremberg zoo has been regularly feeding goats, deer and buffaloes to its big cats in addition to the 170 cow carcasses that routinely are fed to the carnivores in the zoo.

The vote, which will bring the law into effect within two years, was hailed by governments, companies and scientists who had argued that the Europe was falling dangerously behind the US in the multi-billion pound biotechnology industry.

Fierce resistance from the Parliament halted a first attempt at an EU biotechnology law in 1995. The new version seeks to balance ethical with commercial concerns and includes a string of amendments to a draft passed by EU ministers last November. Among the provisions, human cloning and genetic manipulation is outlawed. Patents will be granted strictly to inventions with potential application and not to pure scientific

HUMAN GENES CAN NOW BE OWNED

THE new law gives property rights to techniques being developed for treating diseases and enhancing the products of animals and plants. For example, a human or animal gene sequence could be patented if it could be used to make a medicine, such as insulin for diabetics, or to develop a method of diagnosing disorders. Gene patents are important, for example, for companies trying to develop ways of programming cows to produce chemicals in their milk. Critics say patenting could lead gene owners to charge for use. Drug firms say that in the US, where patents exist, companies allow free use of genes for research.

Letters of the law spell trouble for Goethe's children

Spaghetti will lose its "h". Ketchup will gain an "s" and photos will be Photos unless judges accept a last-ditch attempt by linguistic purists to guard the language of Goethe.

dog. But in Germany, land of stalled reforms, these and other proposed changes to the spelling system have brought people out on the streets angrily sharpening their pencils.

ing cannot be changed by law, argued the lawyer for aggrieved parents. "Coins and currency can be determined by the state, but not the way that a nation writes," said Professor Rolf Gröschner.

Yesterday, will reach a ruling in early summer. The reform has already been challenged in 30 provincial courts with a handful ruling against any spelling changes.

and restaurant to become restaurant. Such a drastic redraft has been abandoned.

As the Government has discovered with other plans to modernise pensions, the health service and taxes, the country is in no mood for a social revolution.

In part the resistance is nationally coloured. Just as consumers fiercely oppose tinkering with the purity of German beer, so writers and academics are increasingly upset by attempts to fiddle with the language.

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Chat with President Boris Yeltsin

President Yeltsin tackles questions on the Internet

Yeltsin spins web of intrigue on Internet

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

IN A debut chat session on the Internet yesterday President Yeltsin answered questions live from around the world on topics ranging from his health and political future to nuclear weapons and international relations.

The 30-minute session, set up by the American MSNBC cable television network, was being held before next week's summit of the Group of Eight industrialised countries in Birmingham. In characteristically boisterous form, the 67-year-old leader dismissed a question on his health and challenged his American interlocutor to a contest to see who was fitter. "All my doctors, including American and German specialists, have given me a clean bill of health," he declared.

He again stirred up intrigue regarding his future. Although he has suggested that he will step down at the end of his second term in 2000, he said the question was still open. But later he said he would be asking Japan, due to stage the G8 summit in 2000, to allow Moscow to host it since it would be the last year of his presidency.

Although the session was aimed at an international audience, some questions did come from Russians, whose access to the Internet is estimated at less than one-tenth of 1 per cent of the population.

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مكزيان الاساس

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY
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By MICHAEL FLANN
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

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The Art of rock 'n' roll

About to begin a comeback tour, the elusive Art Garfunkel is still a restless soul. Interview by Barry Wigmore

Central Park was at peace. Outside, traffic snarled through big puddles on Fifth Avenue. In the empty park, gentle rain coated the trees, and soft light bathed them with a surreal luminescence. It was a scene made for a Simon and Garfunkel song — *The Sounds of Silence*.

The man in the grey jacket and dark-blue baseball cap sat unnoticed at a restaurant table. He moved closer to a heater beneath the blue and white canopy. Pale blue eyes scanned, and missed nothing. He was an observer, unrecognised by fellow diners. The baseball cap never came off.

Seventeen years ago, the park was the scene of his greatest triumph, the most memorable moment among many. In their home city, 11 years after they broke up, Simon and Garfunkel reunited for one magic night. Half a million people came here to watch.

Now Art Garfunkel, the more elusive character in that singing partnership, wanders into the park in the peace of the afternoon, to read John Locke's *Two Treatises of Government*.

Simon and Garfunkel were together for six years, from 1964 to 1970. After they parted — in considerable acrimony — Paul Simon, the powerhouse of the duo, carved out a successful solo career. Garfunkel, with the halo of fine, frizzy hair, and the clear-as-a-bell voice, was more transcendental; he went off to explore the world, and himself.

Today, at 56, he is back — although he would argue that he never went away — singing as beautifully as ever. He starts a ten-day British tour next month to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. From Belfast, through London, to Birmingham, he will sing *Mrs Robinson*, *Homeward Bound*, *The Sounds of Silence*, and, of course, *Bridge Over Troubled Water*.

For Garfunkel, the 1970s were troubled waters. His first marriage ended in divorce after two years. Later his long-time love, Laurie Bird, committed suicide. He was considered prickly, temperamental, precise: a difficult interview.

The 1980s were a period of self-redemption. He dabbled in films and made what he calls "a seriously artistic album", *Animals*. *Christmas*, which brought together the London Symphony Orchestra, King's College Choir and rock stars from around the world. He travelled, discovered writing, and published a book of his thoughts, *Still Water*.

He motorcycled around Britain and Europe. He walked across America, not all at once, but in two-week bites. At first he hitch-hiked to an hotel each evening, then hitched back to precisely where he had finished the previous evening to take up the walk again. Later he travelled, as he put it, "rich man's style", with an assistant in a backup car to avoid the unpredictability of hitching.

All that changed in 1988, when he married Kim Cernak, a Broadway singer 20 years his junior. After ten years of blissful marriage, they have a seven-year-old son, James.

And Art Garfunkel has mellowed. "Beware that word mellow," he chuckles, spooning chicken soup out of a bowl. "It's a dangerous word. Mellow is what gravity does to you. Everything says, 'Maybe, but these days Mr Garfunkel really is a likeable fellow.' He speaks in precise, sometimes Pickwickian phrases: "Bless you. How charming. My sweet wife, I really am blessed."

He lives in what is undoubtedly a fabulous home close to Central Park, but owns neither car nor motorcycle — one of his passions. He prefers to rent motorcycles



Art Garfunkel believes that given enough space by the business people, his musical partnership with Paul Simon might have survived

when he travels — from a place off the Chelsea Embankment, another in Paris. He collects little except memories, he says. "I do collect words," he concedes. He once read, over several years, the entire English dictionary. "I had 4,000 picturesque words which appealed to me, and 600 which would improve one's vocabulary." He adds: "I'm a guy who's put a lot of work into the love of rock 'n' roll. It's life-affirming, sexy... it really is a wonderful event of the 20th century and we should be proud of it."

Why did he leave it for so long then? One gets the impression that through the 1980s he was semi-retired. "Not quite fair," he says precisely. "Retired means you haven't done much. But supposing you were slaving away doing good work, but it wasn't selling. Would I be retired, or would I be not heard from much? It takes two to make a connection."

For the first time he mentions — obliquely — Paul Simon. "I did a lot of shows with the famous former partner through the Sixties. But I did almost no concerts in the Seventies and Eighties. It's new for me in the Nineties to be doing a lot of stage work. I think I have a 26-year-old attitude to the whole thing. I'm just mastering the game."

It is good, he says, not to be throwing up before performances, as he once did. The adrenalin is now at just the right level.

He doubts that Simon and Garfunkel will ever sing together again. But he is not ungracious towards Simon. He suddenly asks about my marriage. I tell him it's



The 'happily solo' Garfunkel

lasted well. "Longevity," he says. "I wish my own partnership would have had it. The famous singing group..."

Is he irritated that 23 years since the break he still comes with the Simon and Garfunkel label? "Not in the least. It seems all too human and natural that people would do that. Simon and Garfunkel is the door I came through into mass consciousness and I would be a fool to have a problem with that fact."

"But I did a lot of deferring to Paul in those years, and I'm so happy not to be doing that now. It's so healthy and good for me to have the elbow room to do a song in the key I want, to leave out the songs I don't want. I feel righteously selfish. Happily solo."

Garfunkel is the middle of three boys brought up in Brooklyn and

Queens. He speaks fondly of his father, a travelling salesman who died some years ago, of his 86-year-old mother, who lives in Florida; and his brothers, one an investor, the other, more bohemian, like himself. From the age of four, he realised he had a voice. He says, as did his good friend, Paul Simon, who lived down the road.

The timing was lucky. "We could get on the radio. And if you were good enough at it they paid you, and it was your excuse for never finding a proper job," he says.

These days, he spends the mornings on the phone planning concerts, new albums, even a film. In the afternoons he reads. He spends the winter working on projects, then relaxes through the summer.

"When I work I'm a workaholic. When I play between projects, I use my imagination," he says.

Next week he will relax before the British concerts, by starting another walk, this time across Europe. "My feet can't stop," he says. He plans to walk from the Atlantic to Istanbul in seven to ten-day bursts.

"Since I married in 1988, I have been decidedly more conventional. I travel less. I won't leave home for more than two weeks if I can help it. I get that ache around the heart for my loved ones by the second week."

A photographer arrives and asks if the cap can be removed to show the trademark halo of hair in the pictures.

"I have a problem with that," says Garfunkel, removing the baseball cap with a smile. He exposes a

wide, bald strip along the top of his head. "I wear a little hairpiece on stage," he confides. "I didn't bother with it today. Do you really need the photo without the cap?"

The photographer puts on a pleading look. The new, mellow Garfunkel shrugs, drops the cap on a chair, and gets down his hair for the photo.

Pictures taken, he returns to talk again about hearing Simon and Garfunkel recently for the first time in ages: "I listen to our earliest two voices and one guitar blending. It's eerie. The breathing is so together. You've gotta like somebody a lot, to listen so intimately, to be such a brother of that phrasing. I thought... we were close, we were very close." There is a hint of surprise in his voice.

"It's natural to break up," he continues. To ride the intensity of the togetherness for a few years, and then finish. The business people jump on you. You're a cash cow, so they milk you.

"If I had my way and could shape Simon and Garfunkel's past, and beyond, I would have given the two lads a break and then see if they could top *Bridge Over Troubled Water*. I sense we could have. But it's not for me now to have that wish. I have a good marriage... I have relaxed. I am more connected to the world and what my offering can be."

He puts on his cap and walks through the park to collect his son from school.

Art Garfunkel starts his nationwide tour in Belfast on June 7. Tickets available from the Cystic Fibrosis Trust 0181-464 7211



Connolly's designs were a blend of stateliness and innocence

A homespun philosophy designed for sophisticates

Colin McDowell pays tribute to the late Sybil Connolly, the couturier who put Dublin on the fashion map

Not many designers are praised as a national treasure by a leader of their country, but that is how Sybil Connolly was described by Jack Lynch, the former Irish Prime Minister. It was in recognition of her achievements for Ireland not only in fashion but also over a broad spectrum of her country's culture.

Connolly, who died a week ago, was much more than a designer of clothes. She was an international tastemaker who, through her work as a designer of textiles and her skills as an interior decorator, brought the attention of the fashionable world to the uniqueness of Ireland in general and the beauties of Dublin in particular.

In the States her influence in America was considerable, and she succeeded in making Ireland fashionable. She turned Dublin into a city where chic women would stop off to shop when returning to America from Paris. Led by Jacqueline Kennedy, every smart woman wanted Connolly's couture clothes because they married the integrity of the craftsman to the sophistication of the couturier. In fact, they were once described as having a unique blend of stateliness and innocence — rather like the woman who created them.

Born of Welsh and Irish parents, she was educated at the Convent of Mercy in Waterford. She left there at 17 and moved to an apprenticeship with Bradley's in London, a dressmaking house that produced clothes for the Royal Family, including Queen Mary. When the Second World War broke out Connolly returned to Ireland and obtained a post in Dublin with the fashion house of Richard Alan.

By the time she was 22, she was

director of the firm and remained in that role until she opened her own house in 1957.

Sybil Connolly was as Irish as a shamrock and the personification of the best of her country — which is why her Georgian house in Dublin's Merrion Square formed part of the cultural heritage of the city, pointed out to busloads of trippers as much for its occupant as for its perfectly preserved facade. It was in this house that Connolly fulfilled her ambition of setting up the first couture establishment in Ireland. For all her working life she lived "over the shop" on the top two floors, with her workrooms and salon below.

Connolly's skill as a couturier lay in her ability to take homespun, indigenous (and often very humble) Irish fabrics and use them in such a way as to make them appeal to the most sophisticated of women. Her encouragement of small craftworkers not only helped them to survive, but also led to the revival of skills that would otherwise have been lost. Her name is associated mainly with Irish linen, but her fashion vocabulary included

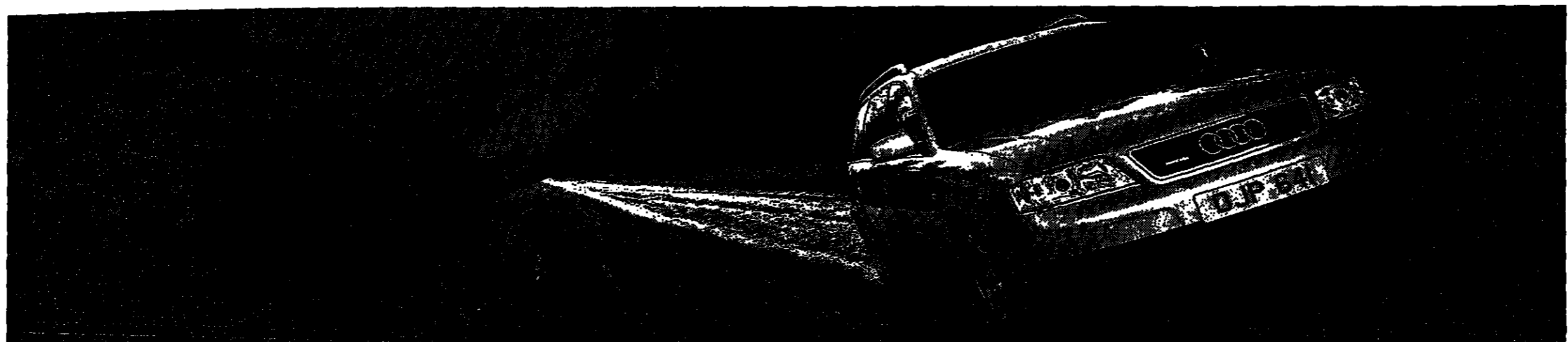
handwoven tweeds, lace, crocheted and embroidered, all in subtle "rain-washed" colours.

She played a key role in cultural life, serving on a commission for the visual arts of Ireland and organising the first exhibition of Irish Delftware (of which she was a collector) in the world.

As dear to her as Irish crafts was the Roman Catholic Church. She derived great pleasure creating habits for the Sisters of Mercy in the United States and two Irish orders. They have the understated elegance of her refined approach, and fittingly stand as her memorial.

She loved making new habits for the Sisters of Mercy

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Audi logo and text: Audi, Volkswagen Group

NEWS

Cook anger over 'wild allegations'

Robin Cook fought back in the arms-to-Africa affair by suggesting that his hands were clean and provisionally clearing Foreign Office officials of any involvement in a breach of the arms embargo against Sierra Leone.

The Foreign Secretary, his credibility damaged by a spiral of allegations over recent days, went on the offensive and effectively accused the British company Sandline of lying about the Government's role in a counter-coup.

Prince Philip 'opposed' Japan award

The Duke of Edinburgh has privately indicated his opposition to the Queen's decision to award England's highest order of chivalry to the Emperor of Japan.

New bank doubts

Fresh doubts clouded the political deal over the European Central Bank when Wim Duisenberg said that he might serve a full eight years.

Drugs in jail

Prisoners caught using cannabis are to be treated more leniently under a strategy that will concentrate on those using hard drugs.

Bell girl protected

The media was banned from going within half a mile of the home or school of Mary Bell's daughter as the Official Solicitor moved to provide her with greater protection.

Battle of Suffolk

A fight for passengers will break out this month on one of the more tranquil sections of the rail network. Rival companies are bidding for Suffolk travellers.

Roddick steps down

Anita Roddick stepped down as chief executive of The Body Shop but insisted that she did not plan to take a back seat in the company.

Screen criminals

Film-makers are hoping that crime will pay with the release of films about real-life criminals, among them Lord Lucan and Martin Cahill.

Crazy Britannia

Come to Britain and meet the people - they are mad. That is the invitation issued by tourism officials in an attempt to entice foreigners to these shores.

Genetic patents

After a decade of opposition, the European Parliament approved an EU-wide biotechnology invention law that will allow patents based on the genes of humans, animals and plants.

Asylum 'airlift'

A Jumbo jet flight every day for 275 days will be needed in 2002 to remove at least 110,000 unsuccessful asylum-seekers.

Pakistan outrage

The Pakistan Government faced a barrage of demands to carry out a nuclear test in response to the three blasts in India on Monday.

Operation 'jokes'

A gynaecologist joked with a pregnant woman about her underwear while he made her watch him carrying out keyhole surgery on her dying unborn twins.

Nuclear spies

The Israeli pilot who led the bombing raid which destroyed Iraq's nuclear reactor at Osirak in 1981 has described the incredible accuracy of the intelligence supplied by Mossad agents in the country.

Gascoigne lights up the World Cup

Glenn Hoddle, the England football coach found his World Cup preparations a sideshow to the news that Paul Gascoigne is a smoker. Still, it made a change from faith healing.



Workers at the Tate Gallery hanging Andy Warhol pictures from 1963, Red Jackie and Liz, for an exhibition opening on Monday

BUSINESS

Defiance: The BMW chairman declared that it will not raise its bid for Rolls-Royce, insisting its £340 million offer can still succeed despite a higher £430 million counter offer from Volkswagen.

SPORT

Football: Stuart Pearce, Andy Cole and Matthew Le Tissier will miss the World Cup finals after being omitted from the England squad of 30 for the match against Saudi Arabia.

ARMS

Man overboard: The Grand Palais in Paris is hosting no less than three astonishing exhibitions, including a magnificent show of photographs by Man Ray.

FEATURES

Bad guys: How do you prevent your daughter from falling for a criminal? Mellow fellow: On the eve of a comeback tour, the elusive half of Simon and Garfunkel proves to be a happy man.

OPINION

Still the issue

The Foreign Secretary is at his best in Commons repartee. His best was unconvincing. He made nothing clear but his revised strategy for survival.

Percentage game

The Government's plans for compulsory union recognition are the first step on the road back to the corporatist twilight of Mr Solomon Binding.

Dotty Britannia

More conformist nations do not regard eccentricity as such a virtue. English is the only language with a thesaurus of complimentary epithets to describe insanity.

Table with columns for UK, Europe, and World weather forecasts, including temperature and wind speed.

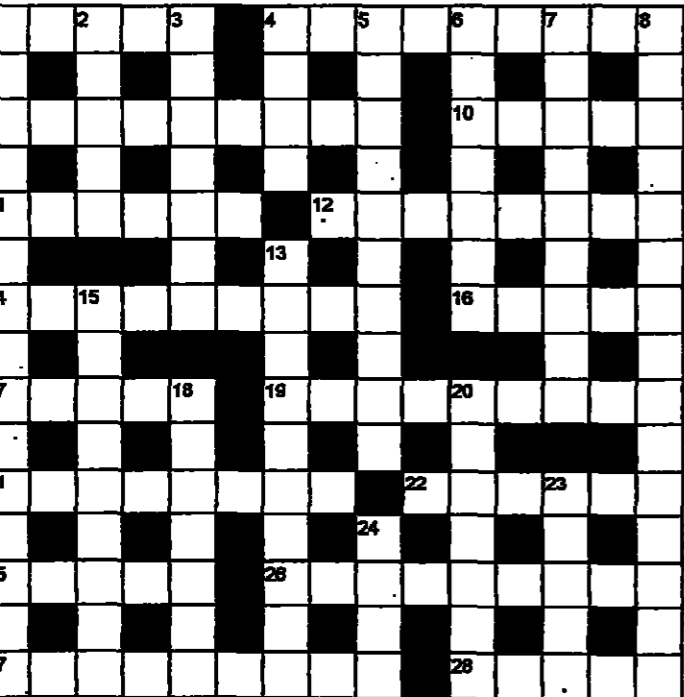
Table with columns for various international cities and their weather conditions.

IN THE TIMES
FILMS
Deep Impact, the season's first popcorn blockbuster, blasts across screens

BOOKS
Jeanette Winterson looks anew at Osbert Sitwell; Howard Davies on capitalism

Charles "Bebe" Rebozo, presidential confidante; Sir Francis Avery Jones, gastroenterologist; Tim Brennan, Lloyds

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,790



ACROSS
1 Identify head of lifeless murder victim (5)
2 Sorts out some women's clothing (9)
3 Mother taking in a rather gutless relation (9)

DOWN
1 Constable's influence extending far and wide (4,3,2,3,3)
2 Maybe a brilliant bandleader taking up musical instrument (7)

FORECAST

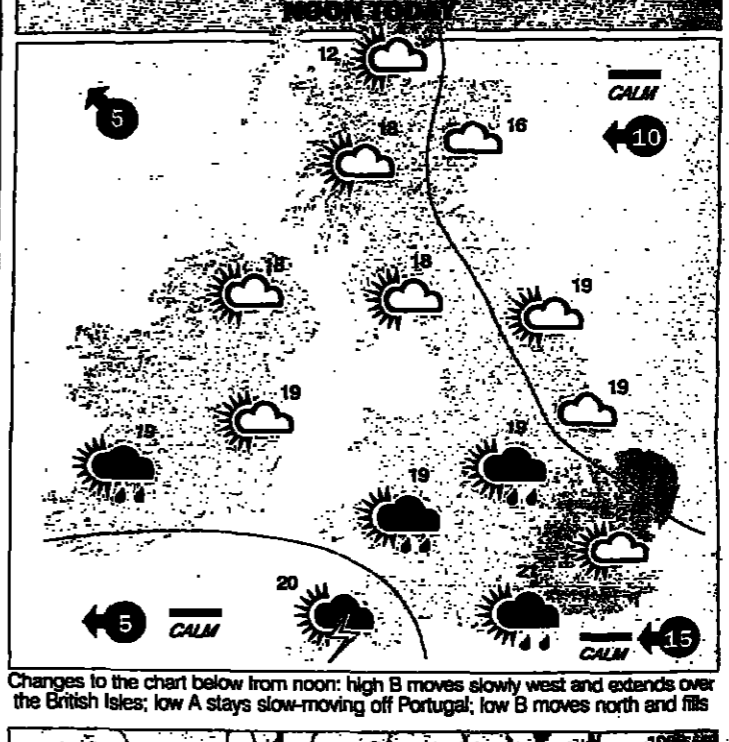
General: most places will see very warm sunshine but showers will move from southwest England into Midlands and Wales, and into Northern Ireland later.

ABROAD

Table of weather forecasts for various international cities like Madrid, London, and New York.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing temperature, wind, and other weather details for various locations across Britain yesterday.



HIGH TIDES

Table of high tide times for various coastal locations like Liverpool, London, and Southampton.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Hove, East Sussex, 25C (77F); lowest day temp: Fair Isle, Shetland, 9C (48F).

Newspapers Support Recycling logo and text.

Toshiba advertisement text.

Advertisement text for a company, possibly related to air conditioning.

Large vertical advertisement for BMW and Body Shop.

SBC Com chief stuns rivals with telecoms deal

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

WALL STREET was yesterday coming to terms with the unexpected emergence of Ed Whitacre as an unlikely pioneer in the fast-changing telecoms industry.

Mr Whitacre, chairman and chief executive of SBC Communications, stunned the industry on Monday when he announced a \$71 billion (£42 billion) takeover bid for Ameritech to form America's largest telephone group.

Largely unknown outside telecoms until this week, Mr Whitacre has emerged as a formidable challenger to Bernie Ebbers of WorldCom in terms of ambition and sheer audacity. Mr Ebbers, who favours wearing cowboy boots and slacks, shot to pieces BT's overseas strategy with a \$41 billion takeover of MCI. It was a high-wire strategy that hinged on Mr Ebbers's Wall Street reputation as a dare-devil dealmaker.

Mr Whitacre is at least as much a maverick as Mr Ebbers. His ambition is to head the biggest carrier in the land. Rather than trying to win more business in newly deregulated markets, he has chosen to build an empire by acquisition.

Meeting members of the local Scouts. He said: "I like Mexican food. I am a pretty dull guy. I go hunting and fishing every chance I get."

Eurofighter loses to F-16 in battle for UAE order

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE Eurofighter, built by a consortium of European defence companies including British Aerospace, has lost its first dogfight in the international arms bazaar.

Nahyan of the UAE announced the deal at the White House yesterday. The announcement was made by Mr Gore as part of his campaign to be elected as President Bill Clinton's successor. He promised "thousands of jobs for Texas", where the F-16 is built.

The United Arab Emirates yesterday awarded a fighter aircraft contract worth up to \$8 billion (£4.9 billion) to Lockheed Martin, the US aerospace and defence group.

The Eurofighter marketing team had its hopes raised at a defence exhibition last year, when an UAE armed forces official said the F-16's specifications did not meet its requirements. In response, Lockheed is believed to have made a number of adjustments to the F-16, one of America's most successful exports since it made its first flight in 1974.



David Blunkett, left, with Peter Stothard, Editor of The Times, after offering a study of his department's skills drive

Blunkett outlines class role for firms

BY PATIENCE WHEATCROFT CITY EDITOR

DAVID BLUNKETT, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, has called on businesses to work more closely with the education system.

free to British secondary schools and colleges teaching business studies. Companies contributing studies, and represented at the launch, included Equitable Life, FKI, Virgin Atlantic, Courtaulds and the group that is bidding £1.8 billion to take it over, Alzo Nobel.

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SFA expels equities researcher

BY RICHARD MILES

THE Securities and Futures Authority has expelled a former equities researcher at Merrill Lynch, the investment bank, from its register for the illicit use of inside information.

Two directors leave Gartmore

BY RICHARD MILES

GARTMORE, the fund manager, which has been much criticised for the poor performance of its main pension funds, yesterday said that two directors are leaving it.

BCE to sell £1bn stake in CWC

BY CHRIS AYRES

BCE, the owner of Bell Canada and Northern Telecom, yesterday astonished the City when it said that its BCI Telecom subsidiary would sell its £1 billion stake in Cable & Wireless Communications, the quoted UK cable company formed last year.

Shares in CWC fell 9½p to 442p yesterday, valuing BCE's stake at about £940 million - about 50 per cent higher than when CWC floated.

Shares in CWC fell 9½p to 442p yesterday, valuing BCE's stake at about £940 million - about 50 per cent higher than when CWC floated.

Belfast to have port privatised

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Port of Belfast is to be privatised in a deal that could raise up to £100 million for investment in the province. The sale was announced as Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, unveiled a £315 million support package for Northern Ireland.

Rolls-Royce wins order

ROLLS-ROYCE, the aerospace and power engineering group, has received a £74 million order in the Middle East for its switch-gear manufacturing arm.

H&M share price slips

SHARES in Holmes & Marchant fell from 20½p to 19½p after the media agency announced first-half pre-tax profits of £599,000 (£461,000).

Cavagham extends range

CAVAGHAM & GRAY, the Ross Sausages and Dalepak burgers company that has agreed to an £80 million takeover from Northern Foods, is shifting towards the vegetarian market with a £7.5 million investment in new brands.

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Capitol plans £21m buyout

BY CHRIS AYRES

CAPITOL GROUP, the security company which specialises in investigating people who claim insurance for personal injury, is to leave the stock market through a £21 million management buyout.

traded at about 130p before bid speculation began. The MBO, through a vehicle called Cheam, values it at 175p a share. As well as its investigation services operations, Capitol also provides ports, airports and retail security. It employs about 2,300 staff.

million in cash. The other directors, including Cliff Cavender, finance director, will take a total 17.5 per cent.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.67	2.60	0.675
Austria Sch	13.75	13.75	3.18
Belgium Fr	65.00	65.00	1.36
Canada Cdn	2.45	2.37	1.27
Cyprus Cyp£	0.886	0.828	287.20
Denmark Kr	11.84	10.75	6.98
France Fr	6.56	6.56	257.65
Germany DM	10.20	9.42	13.25
Greece Dr	336	2.28	2.67
Hong Kong \$	13.48	12.29	1.98
Ireland P	128	1.12	1.741
Israel Sh	1.20	1.12	1.741
Italy Lit	638	6.74	1.741
Japan Yen	333.47	275.94	1.741

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OHMED for unhealed wounds to result... PPG throws hat in the ring for Courtauld... Taylor & Francis set for £13.7m from floor... squeezed by...

STOCK MARKET



FRASER NELSON

FTSE drops below 6,000 despite takeover activity

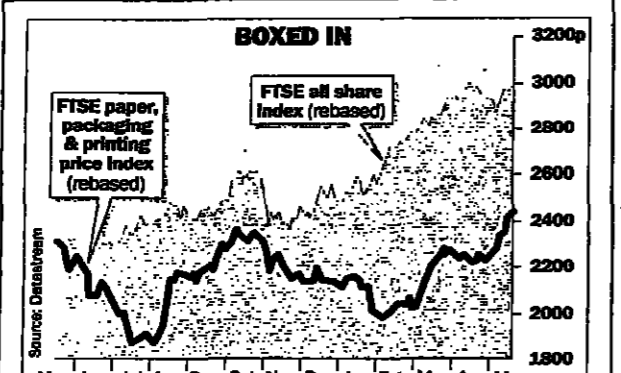
TAKEOVER activity among London's smaller companies... The FTSE 100 fell back 71.6 points to 5,965.7, discouraged by a sharp overnight drop in Hong Kong shares and a weak opening in New York.



Chris Evans, who brought in Noel Edmonds to publicise Toad, announced that he is taking the helm at Celsis

Celsis International, the drug company that has consistently disappointed its investors, became London's best-performing share after Arthur Holden resigned as chief executive to attempt to take the company private.

It said that a "major property company" had been interested in the whole group, but did not share its valuation. It now hopes to sell its 35 shops and offices for £26 million, then return the cash to shareholders.



WHEN Jefferson Smurfit agreed the £2.25 billion (£1.3 billion) merger of its US business, it said that a wave of consolidation would soon sweep the packaging markets on both sides of the Atlantic.

pizza company whose shares gained another 17 1/2 p to 412 1/2 p yesterday - having traded at 250p only two months ago.

The company's formula of PizzaExpress-calibre food with a £5 take-away option is proving a success in London. It now has 35 restaurants and has raised £6.4 million for further roll-out.

Observers say it has now achieved the critical mass needed to catch the attention of a major brewer.

On the Alternative Investment Market, directors of Aram Resources, up 10p to 102p, attempted to breathe life into the moribund share price which has seen just 13 trades in its eight months on AIM.

MAJOR INDICES

Table of major indices including New York (Dow Jones, S&P Composite), Tokyo (Nikkei Average), Hong Kong (Hang Seng), Amsterdam (AEX Index), Sydney (ASX 200), Frankfurt (DAX), Singapore (Straits), Brussels (General), Paris (CAC-40), Zurich (SIX Gen), London (FT 30, FTSE 100, FTSE 250, FTSE 1000, FTSE All-Share, FTSE 1000 Index, FTSE 1000 Index, FTSE 1000 Index, FTSE 1000 Index).

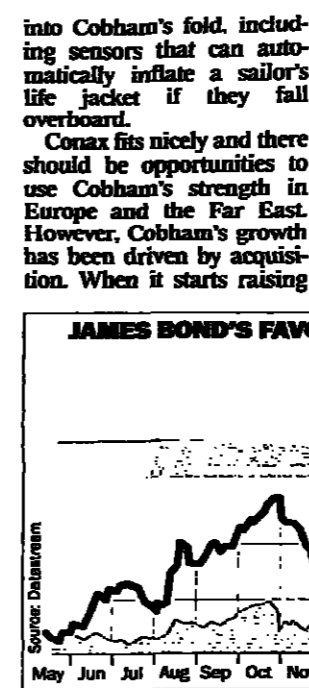
TEMPUS Hope amid the gloom

PEER through the gloom shrouding the results from BOC Group yesterday, and it is possible to make a decent case for the gases company as a recovery stock.

more important is the reorganisation under way at BOC Gases, which is responsible for 85 per cent of the group's continuing operating profits.

On top of this, the pound has finally started to move in BOC's favour - and George Soros, at least, expects this trend to continue.

COBBAM AFTER Aston Martin and Ferrari, Cobham would be James Bond's favourite company. It makes engines for the world's elite and is a staff life underwater breathing gear that gets rid of tell-tale bubbles - useful on secret diving missions.



money from shareholders for takeovers, as it is doing for Conax, the margin for error is small.

RIGHT ISSUES

Table of right issues including Avocet Mining n/p (60) 13, Freport Ltd n/p (32) 43, Guinness Pl n/p (20) 11, Magnam Pwr n/p (12) 4, Memory Cop n/p (20) 12, Mon Oil & Gas n/p (55) 7, Proteus Intl n/p (45) 4.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street indices including S&P 500, Dow Jones, NASDAQ, and various sector indices.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including Liffe, ICIS-LOR, GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES, and others.

LIFE OPTIONS

Table of life options including various insurance and investment products.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including Long Gilt, German Gov Bond, Five Year Gilt, Italian Gov Bond, Japanese Gov Bond, etc.

DOLLAR RATES

Table of dollar rates for various countries including Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, etc.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of money rates for various banks and currencies.

OTHER STERLING

Table of other sterling rates for various currencies and markets.

FTSE VOLUMES

Table of FTSE volumes for various companies and sectors.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposits for various currencies and terms.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table of gold and precious metals prices.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies.

MID RATES FOR MAY 12

Table of mid rates for May 12 for various currencies and terms.

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Christine Buckley... the best chance for economic prosperity

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CalPERS attack on EDS

By Jason Nisse

CALPERS, the giant Californian pension fund, has launched an attack on EDS, the computer services group founded by H Ross Perot, saying it needs a new chairman to stem its underperformance.

In an open letter published on CalPERS' Internet Website, the fund attacked Lester Alberthal, EDS's chairman and chief executive, for combining the senior roles and enjoying a 59 per cent increase in his total pay package to \$13.8 million (£8.6 million).

CalPERS, which has more than \$100 million invested in EDS, is unhappy with the group's performance since it was demerged from General Motors five years ago. This is despite EDS's success in winning business from the British Government, including the controversial £1.5 billion contract to computerise the Inland Revenue's back-office functions. EDS has rejected CalPERS' move as "unnecessary".

Telekom blow shakes investors

By Chris Ayres

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM, the huge European telecoms operator, stunned shareholders yesterday by saying it would make provisions of up to DM4.5 billion (£1.7 billion) after German regulators told it to invest more in its network.

The order came after Deutsche revealed plans to increase its cable television subscription fees from DM23.70 to DM25.90 per installation. Shares in the company fell DM1.89 in early trading, or 4.15 per cent, to DM43.70.

Deutsche, which owns one of the world's largest cable television networks, said the provisions would be taken into its balance sheet in 1998. It would make a "considerable impression" on this year's profits, it said. The company added that it would file a legal protest over the next few days, and if the court found in its favour then the provisions would no longer be necessary.

The regulators responded by saying they would not force

Deutsche Telekom to take the step, but emphasised that they would not recognise two thirds of its price increase if the company did not make the extra investment needed.

Deutsche said: "The board has studied the effects of this decision... the profitability of the cable business will be notably reduced as the decision leads to the fear that price adjustments in the cable network will not be approved in the future either. This has implications for the continuing value of the fixed asset investment in the cable area." The company added that it aims to restructure its cable television business to bring in partners, and did not rule out withdrawing completely from the market. Industry insiders said the entire division could be spun-off by as early as 1999.

Analysts in the UK were sceptical about the provisions, suggesting they were being used to persuade the regulators to back down.



Martin Donohue, left, with John Bennett yesterday

Westbury boosted by price rises

By Martin Barrow

WESTBURY, the acquisitive housebuilding company, enjoyed a 10 per cent rise in average selling prices to about £85,000 in its last financial year. The company said the increase reflected a change in product mix and geographical balance, with only a modest contribution from underlying selling price inflation.

Martin Donohue, chief executive, and John Bennett, finance director, saw pre-tax profits rise from £22.6 million to £30.6 million in the year to February 28. Earnings were 23.3p a share, up from 17.3p. There is a final dividend of 5p, lifting the total 10.75 per cent to 7.36p. The shares rose 3p to 262½p yesterday.

Geoffrey Maddrell, non-executive chairman, said the company continued to focus primarily on operating efficiencies rather than on volume increases. The company ended the year with a total of 10,000 plots with planning consent, up from 9,400.

Mr Maddrell said that land price inflation was "significant" during the first nine months of the year, although the market had steadied in the final quarter.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Cobham pays £40m for supplier to Nasa

COBHAM, the aerospace and defence group, yesterday boosted its presence in the US by purchasing a supplier to the US armed forces and Nasa. Cobham is buying Conax, a Florida company that had profits of £4 million in 1997, in a debt-free deal for £40.5 million cash. It will raise £49.6 million from a placing of 4.6 million shares to help to fund the deal.

Conax makes life-support systems that protect sailors and pilots if they fall or are ejected into the sea. Its water-sensing technology can inflate a lifejacket automatically and accounts for about 70 per cent of revenues, which were £17.1 million last year. Conax's other products include missile-cooling systems and parachute release technology for the Space Shuttle's re-usable booster rockets. Cobham's Carleton Technologies subsidiary already supplies breathing equipment for Nasa astronauts on "spacewalks".

Celsis chief resigns

ARTHUR HOLDEN, chief executive of Celsis, the microbial risk management group, has resigned after a conflict of interest emerged over his intention to bid for the company or to take it private. Jack Rowell has been acting chief executive, moving over from the chairmanship, which will be taken up by Chris Evans, a non-executive director. Celsis made a pre-tax, pre-exceptional loss of £373,000 in the year to March, against a £4.1 million loss previously. Sales rose to £16.2 million, from £11.1 million. The shares rose 8p to 40½p.

ASK makes cash call

ASK CENTRAL, the fast-growing restaurants chain, is raising £6.4 million by way of a rights issue to fund further expansion. The company, whose shares have more than doubled in the past year, is offering investors new shares at 350p each. Existing shares rose by 17½p, to a new high of 412½p, yesterday. The company has 35 restaurants, of which 13 were opened in 1997 and five have been opened this year. Its 1997 pre-tax profits rose to £2 million, from £700,000, on turnover up to £12.8 million, from £6.3 million.

Ushers acquisition

USHERS OF TROWBRIDGE has exchanged contracts for the purchase of the Little Pub Company for £6.5 million. Ushers said the purchase is expected to be completed by the end of the month. The acquisition of 11 tenanted pubs and nine managed houses brings the total number of managed houses within Ushers to more than 50 out of a total estate of 530, the company said. The acquisition also brings the total number of pubs acquired by Ushers so far this year to 45. Ushers shares were unchanged at 90p yesterday.

Deltron set to expand

DELTRON ELECTRONICS aims to expand further into Europe, says Paul Gourmand, chairman. He said: "The acquisition of further operations in Europe is high on our agenda." Deltron lifted pre-tax profits to £1.4 million, from £1.04 million, in the six months to March 31. Earnings per share rose to 4.8p (3.8p). The half-year dividend rises to 1.18p (1p). Sales rose by 46 per cent, to £18 million, including first-time contributions from the Conelec and Freber acquisitions. Stripping out acquisitions, organic growth was 6.4 per cent.

Titon builds to record

TITON, the building materials group, raised pre-tax profits from £773,000 to £885,000 in the six months to March 31 on sales up from £5.8 million to £6.6 million. Earnings rose from 4.70p to 5.36p out of which the interim dividend rises from 1.7p to 1.8p. Titon says that sales improved throughout the half year, reaching a record for a single month in March. The company said: "Prices appear to have stabilised and there is reasonable expectation that the second half will not disappoint." The shares rose 6p to 90p.

Greenalls hotel deal

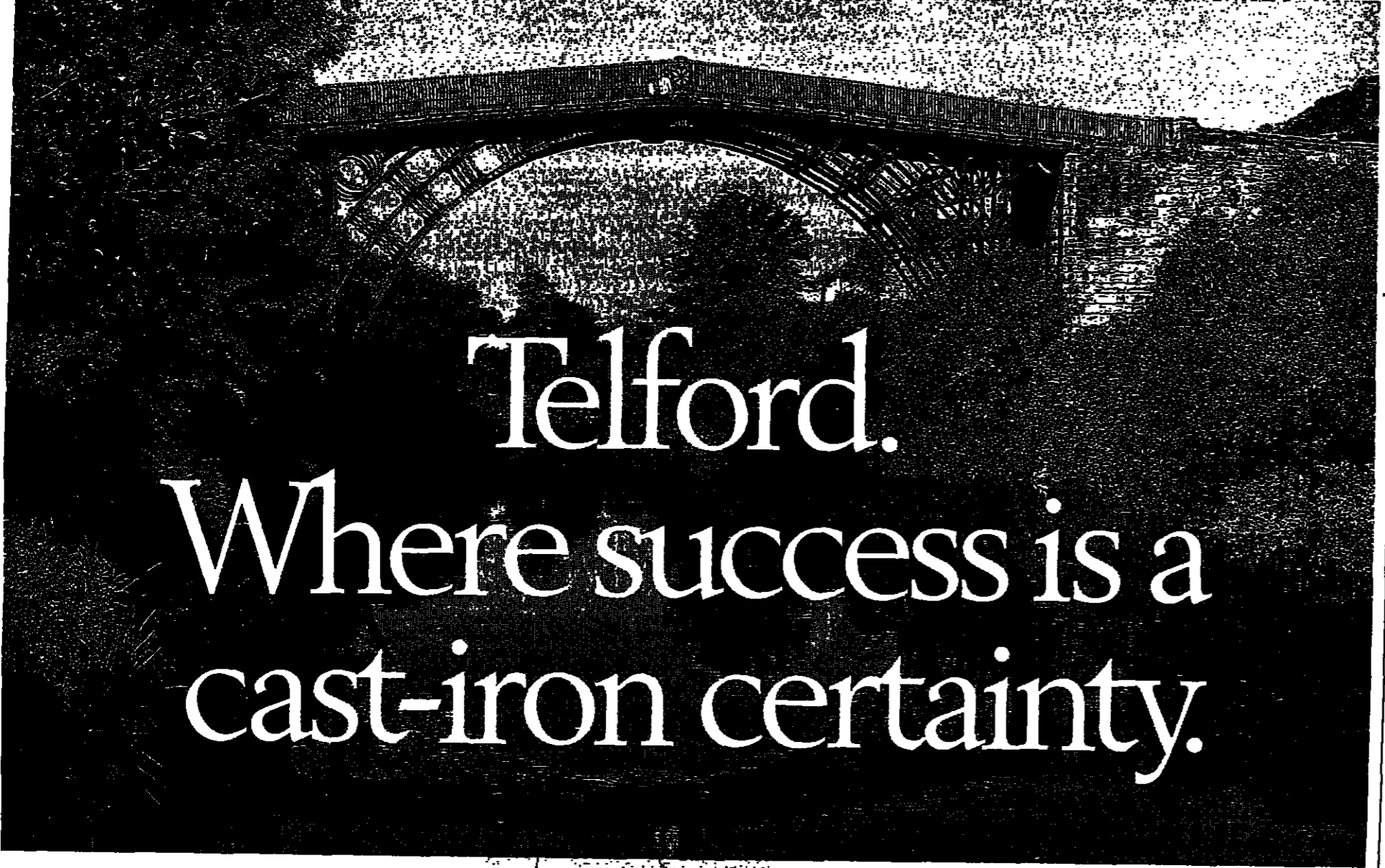
GREENALLS, the drinks group, has bought Slayey Hall, a four star hotel in Northumberland, for £16.2 million. The 1,000 acres of golf course and conference centre will be operated under the De Vere brand, taking the De Vere portfolio up to 16. Greenalls said: "Northumberland County Council's energy and imagination in promoting the county made it a natural choice for us and we look forward to a shared vision of business expansion going hand in hand with visitor growth." Shares in Greenalls rose 3p to 480½p.

Tops buys tenth mall

TOPS ESTATES, the property company, has bought the Victoria shopping centre in Harrogate from National Provident Institution for £23 million cash, bringing the number of shopping malls in its portfolio to ten. The centre opened in 1992 and has about 90,000 sq ft of shopping space. It is held on two long leases for unexpired terms of 145 years and occupies an acre in the town centre. Tops intends to increase its floorspace by 60 per cent. Rent receivable is currently £1.51 million. Tops shares rose 6p to 192½p.

TI in £207m disposal

TI GROUP, the UK engineering company, has signed an agreement to sell its landing gear operations to Snecma, the French aerospace company, for £207.5 million, confirming a preliminary deal announced in December. TI's landing gear operations consist of a 50 per cent stake in Messier-Dowty and a wholly owned repair and overhaul business, which primarily services Messier-Dowty products. TI said that it is committed to its remaining wholly owned Dowty aerospace businesses, "which enjoy strong niche market positions".



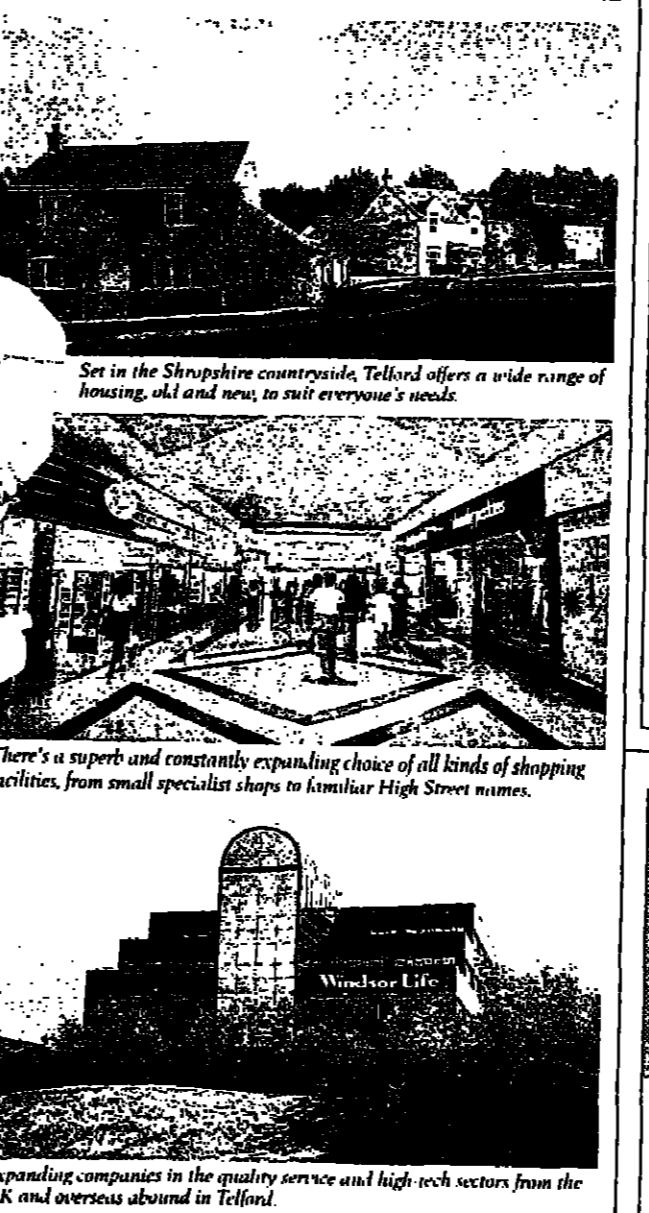
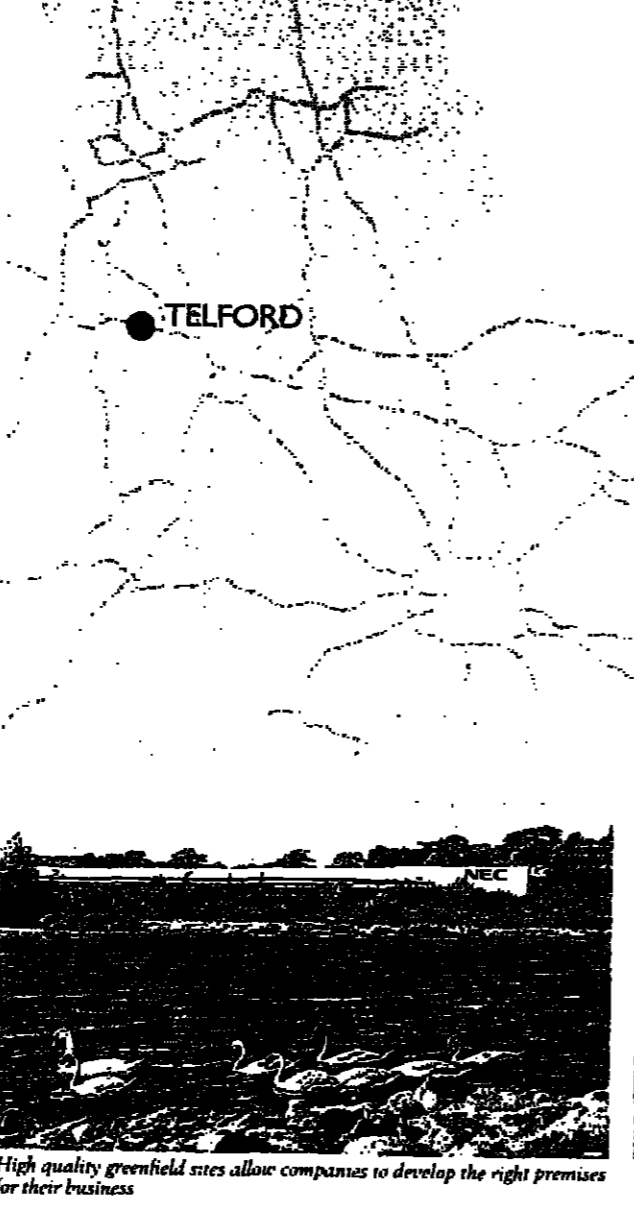
Telford.
Where success is a cast-iron certainty.

The famous Ironbridge is both a legacy of the Industrial Revolution and a testament to Telford's unstoppable business success. £2,000 million of public and private investment have made it the region's fastest growing town, and CNT, England's largest owner of development land, has a wide range of prime development sites available here for fast-track sale.

But business isn't the only success story in Telford. There's also an excellent quality of life, with the South Shropshire Hills, Snowdonia and the beautiful Welsh coast all in easy reach; a wide range of sports and leisure facilities; attractive homes in Telford and the surrounding villages; and one of Europe's biggest town parks right next to the magnificent Telford Shopping Centre.

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Equities on the retreat

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices categorized by sector: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, ELECTRICITY, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS - FOOD, RETAILERS - GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER. Includes columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E Ratio.

Table of stock prices categorized by sector: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, ELECTRICITY, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS - FOOD, RETAILERS - GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER. Includes columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E Ratio.

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Table of British Funds and Index-Linked funds. Columns include High, Low, Stock, Price, % Change, and Index-Linked on projected inflation of 5%.

Source: FT Information. Prices in Canadian dollars. Figures in parentheses are in US dollars. Figures in brackets are in US cents. Figures in bold are in US dollars. Figures in italics are in US cents. Figures in small font are in US cents.

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized into columns with headers like 'Fund Name', 'Unit Price', and 'Change'. Includes sub-sections for various fund categories.

Birmingham welcomes the largest convention of its kind in the world. (Needless to say, it's going to be a roaring success.) Lions Clubs International Convention June 29th - July 3rd

the nec birmingham

Vertical advertisements on the right side of the page, including 'THE TIMES WEDNESDAY', 'Day three of the...', 'CHEMICAL ENGINEERS', 'Univerlab', and 'Who's leading their...'.

Day three of the series: John O'Leary introduces a subject-by-subject analysis of the top university departments

Students often have clear views on which are the best universities in Britain, but the pecking order in any given subject can be quite different. The Times survey yesterday showed that the quality of course is students' top priority, but they cannot be sure where to find it. The 14 tables on this page and nine more tomorrow give a pointer to the best departments, using the official assessments of teaching and research, and students' entry grades. They cover all the areas in which teaching quality has been rated in English universities. More subjects are in the process of assessment, but will not be completed until later in the year.

Where to find the best courses

The subject rankings have been changed this year for consistency with our overall league table of universities, which will be published on Friday. This has meant giving extra weighting to the teaching assessments and restoring the entry grades, which were not available last year. As a result, the leadership of most of the tables has altered, and Cambridge is tightening its grip on the top places. But the outcomes confirm that pockets of excellence exist throughout the university system.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, discussed the issue last Friday and agreed that any new arrangements should provide a better guarantee of quality. Diana Warwick, the CVCP's chief executive, said that there would still be a "national survey" showing who had done well. For applicants with up to 100 different universities and colleges to choose from in some subjects, the key question is whether such a survey would be as explicit as the current system, flawed as it may be. The issue will be resolved in the coming months after talks with the higher education funding councils, which were responsible for the current system.

To allow for differences in the cycle of inspections in Scotland and Wales, and for departments rated for research under different subject headings, our new rankings include universities if they appear in two of the three categories used. A third score is then produced using an average of the two figures. Teaching quality ratings carry a weighting of 2.5 and research grades 1.5 for entry qualifications. In most cases, the top university's score is converted to 100 points, with the remainder receiving the relevant proportion.



Naturally talented: the University of East Anglia is a leader in environmental science teaching and research

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: OXBRIDGE STILL DOMINATES

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Table with 3 columns: University, Score, Rank. Top entries: Oxford (100), Cambridge (99.6), Imperial (94).

HIGHER ENTRY grades and a single point in the official assessment of teaching enabled Cambridge to overtake Imperial College London at the head of the chemical engineering ranking. But the margin remains small, one of the smallest in any of the subjects covered in our tables.

CHEMISTRY

Table with 3 columns: University, Score, Rank. Top entries: Oxford (100), Cambridge (100), Bristol (92.6).

OXFORD and Cambridge are inseparable at the top of the chemistry table, both having registered perfect scores for both teaching and research. Although 13 institutions were rated excellent for teaching, only the two ancient universities reached the pinnacle of the last research assessment exercise.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Table with 3 columns: University, Score, Rank. Top entries: East Anglia (96.1), Reading (93.6), Lancaster (92.3).

ONLY East Anglia's high entry requirements separated the university from Reading, which shares the distinction of maximum scores for both teaching and research. Although a number of departments were considered excellent for teaching, only two top research grades were awarded.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Table with 3 columns: University, Score, Rank. Top entries: Oxford (100), Cambridge (100), Imperial (94).

THERE has been little to choose between the top three departments for mechanical engineering, however the ranking is constructed. Bath's high entry grades give it first place, overtaking last year's joint winners at Sheffield and Cardiff.

ARCHITECTURE

Table with 3 columns: University, Score, Rank. Top entries: Cambridge (100), Bristol (98.6), Durham (98.4).

SEVEN universities make the top 20 of the architecture rankings, thanks to their strong performance in teaching. Teaching quality was assessed in 1994 and gradings of "excellent" given to East London and Greenwich, as well as Glasgow School of Art, and the older universities of Bath, Cambridge, UCL, Newcastle, Nottingham, Sheffield, Strathclyde and York.

PHYSICS

Table with 3 columns: University, Score, Rank. Top entries: Cambridge (100), Warwick (94.7), LSE (94).

THE LSE owes its position at the top of the table to its excellent teaching and a five-star rating for research. Excellent teaching was found by the funding council assessors at more than a third of institutions when they visited in 1995.

SOCIAL POLICY

Table with 3 columns: University, Score, Rank. Top entries: LSE (97.7), King's (97.6), UCL (97.4).

THE LSE owes its position at the top of the table to its excellent teaching and a five-star rating for research. Excellent teaching was found by the funding council assessors at more than a third of institutions when they visited in 1995.

SOCIETY

Table with 3 columns: University, Score, Rank. Top entries: Warwick (94), Sussex (88.6), Lough (85.8).

WARWICK received top marks for its undergraduate teaching when it was assessed alongside social policy. Three other institutions were awarded the top teaching score: Sussex, Birmingham and the Open University. The new universities of Greenwich and West of England, as well as Loughborough and York, were only a point behind. The highest-rated research departments are at Essex and Lancaster.

Advertisement for 'University tables. Who's in a league of their own?' featuring a large image of a university building and text promoting the Times Higher Education Supplement.

Advertisement for 'Buying digs for the Kids?' featuring a large image of a child and text promoting Paragon mortgages for university students.

Advertisement for Cardiff University, featuring text about its international reputation and various academic departments like Chemistry, Biosciences, and Physics.



MUSICALS
Cy Coleman arrives with Sweet Charity
PAGE 33

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE
Powerful new drama from the Royal Court
PAGE 34



In Paris, Richard Cork reviews a magnificent show of Man Ray photographs and other Grand Palais exhibitions

The Man who loved to snap women

More than anything else, the multi-talented Man Ray wanted to be hailed as a painter. But an epic survey of his photographs, staged by the Pompidou Centre at the Grand Palais in Paris, proves that the camera released his imagination to the full. The show is a revelation. Around 500 images, many hitherto unknown, show how Man Ray's most arresting images evolved through a process of continual refinement.

They also disclose just how many of his photographs originated in journalistic commissions. Seen in isolation, his close-up of a woman strangled by a serpent might look like a classic Surrealist invention. But Man Ray made it for the cover of a magazine called *Vu*, the 1930s equivalent of *Paris Match*. The woman turns out to be Mlle Dorita, a snake-charmer celebrated for her erotic performances in a Montparnasse cabaret.

The exhibition enables us to follow Man Ray as he takes shot after shot, concentrating at first on the seated Dorita. Then he photographs her lying down, while the serpent coils around her neck. Finally, crease-marks show how he folded the print, excluding everything apart from the central confrontation. The result, published in *Vu* with the melodramatic caption *The Tragic Necklace*, has a nightmarish impact.

He was clearly obsessed with siren-like women



Jacqueline Goddard, transformed by Man Ray in 1930 into an imperious goddess, her incandescent blonde hair ignited by intense lighting

The extraordinary range of Man Ray's photographic work, mostly dating from the interwar period, is also impressive. He produced near-documentary studies of the Marquis de Sade's château, formidable in its ominous, high-walled defensiveness. He experimented with double exposures, solarisation and near-abstract Rayograms. But he was equally adept at fashion shoots. Another photographer might have been at pains to divorce his commercial output from his avant-garde projects. Man Ray, however,

clasps one of her breasts with teasing modesty. Like many of his fellow Surrealists, Man Ray was fascinated by the tension between reality and artifice. He photographed the shop-window mannequins in a Surrealist exhibition and then, by judicious cropping, turned their heads into images uncannily close to his studies of flesh-and-blood models. Human sitters, though, remained his most reliable stimulus. Some male portraits, among them a bull-necked Buñuel, a diabolical Dalí, a stern Schoenberg and a boulder-like Picasso, stand out. But his female sitters carry the day, testifying to his infatuation with women at her most remote and enigmatic.

Surprises also abound in another, even more astonishing Grand Palais show. Its long-winded title is puzzling — *Art in the Time of the Accursed Kings: Philip the Fair and His Sons*. Do not be put off. This show contains some of the most enthralling images to be found anywhere in Europe. The period under scrutiny, from 1285 to 1328, witnessed a remarkable flowering in French Gothic art. Painted images are confined largely to illuminated manuscripts, often miraculously well-preserved. Laid out in showcases, their colours possess a freshness and audacity also found in the arresting stained-glass panels displayed elsewhere.

But sculpture provides this survey with its most mesmerising moments. Spotted and displayed with appropriate drama, a cluster of wooden angels dominates the opening room. Two of the most exquisite were discovered only 40 years ago. As captivating as anything by Leonardo da Vinci, these beneficent figures were probably carved for Arras cathedral during the French Revolution and later demolished, the building must once have been a treasure-house of Gothic art at its most beguiling.

Even more unexpected is the degree of realism in portrait sculpture. Identified only in 1995 by Françoise Baron of the Louvre, the marble statue of Jean de Bourgogne is a small marvel. His praying arms were later hacked off to disguise the statue's funerary origins. But nothing can disguise the pathos of the big-eared boy's effigy, nor the directness of his portrayal.

In this instance, we know the identity of the sculptor: Jean Pepin de Huy. But the artist responsible for the most original figure in the show remains tantalisingly anonymous. Executed for the church of Notre-Dame at Ecouis in Normandy, where it is still preserved, this full-length stone carving of Saint Mary Magdalene is a tour de force.

Clasping her hands in prayer, she nevertheless exposes her hedonistic past by letting her hair flow right down her body. The undulating tendrils

PRIZE DRAW AND OFFER

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HOW TO ENTER Collect three differently numbered tokens from *The Times* and one token from *The Sunday Times*. Send them with the completed prize-draw entry form, right, plus your answer to the competition question. Winners will be selected at random from all the correct entries received by Friday, June 5, 1998. Winners will get a voucher for two return tickets from London Heathrow to Amsterdam for 60p each, subject to the terms and conditions which were published in *The Times* on Monday.

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CHANGING TIMES

surge wildly between head and feet, covering but not entirely hiding the erotic swell of her flesh beneath. Figures as bold as this, combined with the expressive force of many other statues, challenge facile theories about the neat division between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. The most powerful carvings on view here suggest that the so-called rebirth in Western art occurred far earlier than is usually supposed.

The bicentenary of Eugene Delacroix's birth is being celebrated with a flurry of shows across France. Rouen, Chantilly, Tours and Bayonne must be delighted to organise these surveys, each devoted to a different aspect of the great Romantic painter's protean achievement. But this complex arrangement robs Delacroix of the grand, all-embracing exhibition he deserves.

The largest of these events, at the Grand Palais, is restricted to his final period. It would have been fascinating to compare the canvases assembled here with early masterpieces like *Dante and Virgil in Hell*.

Australia rules, Britannia cool

For one night only the Phantom's chandelier was packed away and Robyn Archer held court at Her Majesty's across the road from Australia's other cultural ambassador to London. Dame Edna Everage. Although she is not averse to a few bluff jokes herself, Archer is the kind of sophisticated chanteuse who would have Sir Les Patterson choking on his lager.

She stole the West End's heart a decade or so ago with her kaleidoscopic one-woman show *A Star is Torn*. The new show, *Keep up Your Standards!*, is a similarly multifaceted journey through European art songs and Tin Pan Alley. Brecht rubs shoulders with Harold Arlen. Archer holding the diverse baggage together with some aplomb.

Much of the credit must go to her musicians. One or two of Paul Grabowsky's jazz recordings have filtered through to this country before, but they gave only a hint of his full range. Naturally, he can swing a solo when the occasion demands it, but this was more an occasion for an accompanist's disciplined shadings. Niko Schauble's percussion and John Rodgers' fiddle and guitar enriched the mix further, while bassist Stephen Grant had no difficulty in switching over to accordion and trumpet.

In Archer's hands *Stormy Weather* turned into a much spikier affair, as if reharmonised by Kurt Weill. She could also catch us off balance with unexpected juxtapositions. *Come Rain or*

try and western yodelling broke the spell before the end. Everyone else is so busy deconstructing songs that there is really no need for Archer to join in too. A return visit should be arranged as soon as possible.

In the meantime consolation is to be found in the double-act of Britain's two best jazz singers, Claire Martin and Ian Shaw, whose show, *Blue and Sentimental*, runs at Pizza on the Park until Saturday.

Here are two immaculate vocalists who know each other's style intimately and share the same heartbeats. Shaw is a fine pianist too, although the voices soared highest on an effervescent a cappella version of *I'll Never Fall in Love Again* which flowed into another Burt Bacharach hit, *I Say a Little Prayer*. Martin never has to strain for a measure of soulfulness à la Aretha, but she possesses all the self-confidence and daring of the smoothest jazz improvisers.

CLIVE DAVIS

Too good to be forgotten

THE modest re-emergence in recent months of the Family Stand is an unexpected treat, given that the *Guinness Book of British Hit Singles* passes them off as distant one-hit wonders. What a hit it was, though: the 1990 top tenner *Ghetto Heaven* gave the rest of the decade plenty to live up to in the category of skintight urban soul and was a record ahead of its day.

Their new album *Connected*, released by east west, is excellent from first soulful beat to last and, without further ado, their London show on Monday evening is hereby declared among the most energised, uplifting live performances of recent memory.

All the more shame, then, on their record company for making scant apparent effort to tell the world about one of the most creatively vibrant groups on their or any other label. And if intercultural

POP
The Family Stand
Jazz Café, NW1

artistic exchange has truly opened the door to unfettered musical expression in these supposedly integrated times, why does the Family Stand's deliciously uninhibited mixture of funk, soul and rock make one pine for the 1970s, when such styles often really did get a groove on, and rang the bell of black and white audiences alike?

At the Jazz Café, as on *Connected*, the group's dedication to live instrumentation, fathoms-deep emotion and new songs of real substance confirmed them as the presiding dons of the old school. This was a hedonistic journey down the time tunnel to the days of such funk bohemians as War and the Ohio Players.

PAUL SEXTON

Sicily's great theatre reop...

OPEN...

LISTINGS Maxwell Davies premiere

LONDON

MANON: Ross Manton and John Hudson star in Manton's portrait of fashionable and unloving Parisian society in the 18th century. Paul Daniel and Michael Lloyd conduct with David McVicar makes his house debut as director.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by James Christopher

Bloomfield's new piece of music Theatre Service... Michael Nyman Band: Concert that features music from the film Gattaca and the musician's popular jazz band.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: Sir Peter Maxwell Davies premieres his mysterious new ten-minute oratorio based on Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante and Beethoven's Symphony No. 5.

while the ghosts of their dead partners wander unseen around them and jealous friends interfere.

LEICESTER: Gabrielle Drake plays Judith Bliss in Hay Fever, Coward's mystery comedy of dreadful manners, directed by Paul Kershaw.

LONDON GALLERIES: British Museum: The First in Stuart Britain 1603-1688 (011-422 8225).

ARTS Selling the big issues

If Yard Gal had been written 20, 15, even 10 years ago, it would surely have been a different and, almost certainly, inferior play.



Sharon Duncan-Brewster (Boo) and Amelia Lowdell (Marie) in Rebecca Prichard's dramatic tour de force, Yard Gal

THEATRE

not end with much better prospects, having just had a child by - who knows? A sexual customer may, or a drug dealer, or possibly her own violent father.

Well, I don't suppose Rebecca Prichard, the 26-year-old who wrote Yard Gal, votes Tory. Since she herself has worked as a creative writing tutor at HMP Bullwood Hall, and her play is presented by Clean Break, a company that aims to provide 'a powerful and unique voice for women ex-offenders, ex-prisoners and prisoners', it is safe to conclude that she wants to win our attention and sympathy for society's underdogs - and maybe hopes we will ask a pertinent question or two about that society.

can-Brewster's Boo and Amelia Lowdell's Marie to tell their stories, describe their friendship and evoke a world unlikely to be familiar to most Times readers. It is one of all-girl "posses", or gangs, of casual prostitution, uppers, downers, lights, arrests, nights spent in police cells, craziness and, at one unexpectantly poignant moment, accidental on-purpose self-slaughter: of human damage and waste but also of energy, resilience, self-respect and a lack of self-pity.

The dialogue largely consists of narrative and reminiscence, and comes banging across in a Cockney-Caribbean argot that, since it is meant to combine truculent self-assertion with private camouflage, can occasionally be tough to follow.

with a broken bottle on a rival gang leader, or appreciate the subtleties of a bond which, thanks to Boo's imprisonment and Marie's motherhood, looks unlikely to endure.

It is a piece that combines moral maturity with empathy for the very young. Throughout, Prichard avoids every sentimental temptation: not just the kind that patronises losers and the lost, but the kind that suspends criticism because of its admiration for battlers and survivors.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

ELSEWHERE

BRIGHTON: Arrivals and Glens present Mel Bartlett and Nicholas...

Gloria and Artagel in Seven Sacraments

Jeremy Kingdon's assessment of the theatre showing in London.

THEATRE GUIDE

6.30pm Opens May 16, 8.30pm Then Mon, Tue, Thu-Sat, 8.30pm Until May 30

MAJOR BARBARA: Joanna Redgrave plays the Seleucid Army heroine, with Peter Bowles and David Robins in Peter Hall's production of Shaw's drama about the crime of poverty.

Mr Pratt's progress

assorted parts in mostly Yorkshire accents to chart Pratt's rise through the ranks of the Cucumber Marketing Board and the tapestry of family feuds between his various wives and duelling aunts. Apart from Susie Baxter's virtuoso caricature as the eternally frustrated spinster, Cousin Hilda, the most enjoyable is the board itself, made up entirely of power-hungry male middle-management types with spectacular ties inherited from assorted wars.

No baggage, will travel

IN THE CITY there are eight million stories. Theatrically, this is something Glasgow's Suspect Culture knows more than most.

Local Tramway, Glasgow

Via dove-tailing monologues and video collages, we are privy to the lives and times of six Glasgow residents. Ordinary and unremarkable, the one thing they share is their desire to make sense of their lives, to be elsewhere, either in or out of their birthplace.

European Law Re Employer

Clean Car... European Law Re Employer... Neil Cooper

NEW RELEASES

AMY FOSTER (12): Synthetic period drama about two lovers, 1930s, with Rachel Weisz and Vincent Perez. Director, Baz Luhrmann.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where applicable) in the region.

CURRENT

THE BRG LEBOWSKI (18): The Coen brothers' distorted spoof of Raymond Chandler's thrillers.

Mr Pratt's progress (continued)

David Nobbs, the esteemed author of The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin, has sprung a new loser on the block in the shape of Henry Pratt, a useless journalist who lands a job on the Cucumber Marketing Board.

No baggage, will travel (continued)

Between each scene Birch slots in brief snatches of sentimental pop songs and political soundbites to create a frisson of historic relevance to Pratt's journey from Cucumber Man to New Man.

Local Tramway, Glasgow (continued)

Neil Cooper

ART GALLERIES

MICHAEL PARKIN GALLERY: 11 Grosvenor St, London SW1. Exhibition of British artists in the tradition of Sir John Ruskin.

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THEATRES

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY MAY 13 1998 Queen's Bench Reporting... Neighbour... European Law Re Employer... Woman denied... Various small advertisements and notices.

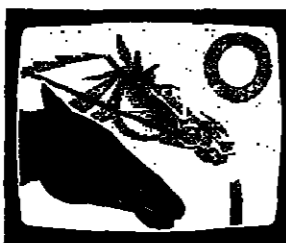
RACING

Saratoga Springs to endorse classic strength of O'Brien

By RICHARD EVANS RACING CORRESPONDENT

SINCE it was first run 40 years ago, the Dante Stakes, sponsored by Grosvenor Casinos, has developed into the premier Derby trial. Last year, Benny The Dip was the sixth horse to complete the York-Epsom double after Erhaab (1994), Reference Point (1987), Shahrastani (1986), Shirley Heights (1978) and St Paddy (1960) — and today's renewal, one of four races screened on Channel 4, could prove to be another vintage occasion.

The six runners who line up on the Knavesmire for the group two race ooze class and, with the possible exception of Greenlander, none of the candidates can be ruled out with confidence. As befits a race of such importance, the jungle drums in Newmarket and beyond have been beating out



TODAY'S RACING ON TELEVISION

However, the Godolphin representative had won only a Doncaster maiden before finishing third to Teapot Row in the Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot. There is no obvious reason why the form should be reversed on level terms, especially as James Toller, trainer of the Duke of Devonshire's colt, has his string in rude health.

Border Arrow has produced the best form this season, winning the Feilden Stakes in game style before staying on well to grab third place behind King Of Kings in the 2,000 Guineas. The Ian Balding-trained runner will appreciate the step up in trip but may just lack the necessary speed.

Without doubt, the best news in the run-up to today's feature race concerns the Irish contender, Saratoga Springs, trained by Aidan O'Brien, the young genius from Ballydoyle. The El Gran Senor colt, who won the Acomb Stakes at York

by five lengths last August, ended last term winning the group one Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster and races here without a penalty.

Saratoga Springs has been delighting connections with his recent homework, most notably last week in the hands of Michael Kinane, and he looks worth a bet.

Horses often develop a pattern of running which, once identified, can prove profitable for backers and Twice As Sharp falls into that category in the opening Grosvenor Casino Leeds Sprint Handicap (2.05). The Peter Harris-trained sprinter invariably produces his best performance on his second run back after a lay-off.

The five-year-old, who won this race last year off only a 3lb lower mark, ran an encouraging race behind Sheltering Sky over six furlongs at Newmarket 11 days ago. He now returns to his ideal trip and can oblige at the main expense of Canovas Heart, who goes well fresh, and the well-handicapped Squire Corrie.

At the start of this season, Luca Cumani expressed the hope that an above-average string of horses could contribute to a good campaign and so far he has been proved right. Kenmist looks particularly well treated in the Grosvenor Casinos Middleton Stakes and can continue the Italian trainer's fine run.

The four-year-old won a competitive listed race at Ascot over 2 miles last September, but should appreciate today's extra quarter mile. She showed up well in her latest piece of work and should prove too strong for the in-form Yabint El Sultan.

A particularly strong pace looks likely in the Grosvenor Casinos Hambleton Stakes (3.40) with Nigrasine and Jo Mell both committed front-runners. The way the race will be run should suit Ramoz, who is suited by waiting tactics and will be cherry ripe after a pleasing seasonal reappearance behind Beauchamp King at Haydock Park 11 days ago.



Bahr, ridden by Dettori, advertises her Oaks claims by holding Midnight Line's renewed challenge in the Musidora Stakes at York yesterday

Bahr signals rich Godolphin harvest

By CHRIS MCGRATH

AFTER wandering through something of an Empty Quarter last year, Godolphin has found its way back to a rather more familiar landscape, fertile and full of peaks. The May meeting at York, indeed, could in time prove to have sown the seeds of Godolphin's richest harvest yet, offering a potential yield of four out of the five British classics.

For the success of Bahr in the Tattersalls Musidora Stakes, the narrow expense of Midnight Line, served not only to demonstrate her Vodafone Oaks credentials. It also made it seem a considerably less audacious enterprise for Godolphin, to switch Cape Verdi, the 1,000 Guineas winner, from that race to the Vodafone Derby. Today, meanwhile, the Grosvenor Casinos Dante Stakes will perhaps indicate that the classic destiny of City Honours lies not at Epsom, but back here in Yorkshire — for the St Leger in September.

With just four fillies contesting yesterday's Oaks trial, Kieren Fallon reluctantly took up the running on Midnight Line. Pushed along in the straight, the odds-on favourite was soon joined by Bahr and Alignment, both travelling sweetly. But Alignment disappeared without trace as the two protagonists stretched for home. Frankie Dettori, seizing the advantage two furlongs out on Bahr — who had rippled with good health in the paddock. She did not quicken away, however, and Midnight Line, grateful for her society, kept on again close home to reduce the deficit to a neck at the line.

Sheikh Mohammed's interpretation was that the winner "just needed the race". He said: "She was one week short and just got a bit tired." Henry Cecil, for whom Midnight Line would have been an eighth Musidora winner, had another explanation. "They didn't get much of a pace and she didn't really want to do it from the front," he said. "You could see her

looking around, and it was only when Frankie came at her that she picked up."

Though Bahr looks the more suitably nimble filly for Epsom, the bookmakers shared these differences. Coral quoted both Bahr and Midnight Line at 4-1 for the Oaks, behind Cape Verdi on 7-4, whereas William Hill, which has Cape Verdi at events with a run, makes Bahr as short as 9-4. Rob Hartnett, for the Tote, said: "Today's race would seem to make it more likely that Cape Verdi will go for the Derby, so we've eased her to 9-4 from 15-8. Bahr is 5-2 (from 6-1), with Midnight Line 9-2."

Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, confirmed that no firm commitment would be made until nearer May 30, when Cape Verdi would have to be supplemented for the Derby. "Bahr will go for the Oaks but, basically, each horse will receive individual treatment depending how they thrive at the end of the month," he said.

Crisford added: "If Cape Verdi is to go for the Derby, she will really have to be pinged towards the race. With a 5lb allowance, it has got to be a feasible option. Obviously, she would annihilate this filly over a mile, but Bahr is also a very talented performer and looks rock solid for a mile and a half."

Fallon lost out here, but he had been at his indomitable best when Lurgess and Bawlsian denied Dettori's mounts in the two previous handicaps. Unhappily, the stewards decided that his trademark aggression had strayed into irresponsibility when forcing a passage on Bawlsian, and gave him a three-day suspension.

Dettori also completed a double on World Premier in the Gilbert O'Leary Handicap, but met his match in Lindsay Charnock when Pipalong gave 6lb to the fancied favourite, Bint Allayl, in the juvenile fillies' maiden. Tim Easterby will now train Pipalong for the Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot.

RICHARD EVANS

NAME: KENMIST (2.35 York) NB: Saratoga Springs (3.10 York)

a series of strong — and conflicting — messages.

Dr Fong, unbeaten in three starts, has been all the rage in the ante-post betting after an eye-catching piece of work on Saturday morning with Capri and, as a result, the Henry Cecil-trained runner looks likely to go off favourite.

Despite an interrupted preparation before his seasonal reappearance at Newmarket 12 days ago, the Thoroughbred Corporation's colt quickened up well before holding on by half a length from Sensory, who is a useful yardstick. Further improvement looks likely.

After Victory Note had won the French 2,000 Guineas at Longchamp on Sunday, Robert Sangster again sang the praises of City Honours, whom he sold to Sheikh Mohammed at the end of last season.



O'Brien: high hopes

LE KICK-OFF LUNDI. In Monday's Times see the first of four, free, 32-page guides to Le Coupe de Monde. Play World Cup Fantasy League with £50,000 to be won.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT. The countries of the British Isles have an annual competition for the Camrose Trophy. England are usually the favourites, but this year they lost to Scotland in the critical match, enabling the Scots to win the Trophy. This was a key hand.

WORD-WATCHING. By Philip Howard. PIOB MHOR a. A Tolkien Goblin b. Porridge oats c. A bagpipe

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT. Kasparov's victory. Today, I conclude coverage of Kasparov's 4-0 victory in his rapid-play match against Veselin Topalov, the Bulgarian grandmaster.

WINNING MOVE. By Raymond Keene. White to play. This position is from the game Nezmeldinov-Kasparian, Latvia, 1955. The black king is very exposed and now White managed to find a sequence which forced checkmate. How did he continue?

talk radio. CHANGING TIMES

Savill n... prior... THE TIMES WEDNESDAY MAY 13 1998. RESULTS FROM YESTE...

CRICKET

Surrey back to strength with return of Stewart

By Simon Wilde

TODAY, after a two-week break, England's professional cricketers return their attentions to the Britannic Assurance county championship...

They made it plain at the annual meeting of the Professional Cricketers' Association (PCA) at Edgbaston on Monday that they would prefer the championship to be split into two divisions...

If rank-and-file players left them sharing second place in the table...

Piper has had a family bereavement, while Penney has damaged a knee, which at least gives Michael Powell, fresh from two second XI centuries, an opportunity...

Durham gave a good account of themselves in their opening championship match against Warwickshire...

So severe are the injury problems of Essex, their opponents at Chester-le-Street today, that they might have had high hopes of a rare championship victory...

Yorkshire, who lead the table by 14 points and have won eight matches out of nine in all competitions, are away to Northamptonshire...

The win by Surrey, by an innings, over Warwickshire, the favourites to win title, has



Stewart break over



Woolmer, the former Kent and England all-rounder, who is now the South Africa coach, makes his point before practice at Lord's yesterday

Woolmer enters race for equality

Ivo Tennant on the coach aiming to bring black South Africans into the Test arena

It is not easy to believe that such a pleasant and mild-mannered individual as Bob Woolmer has courted controversy throughout his cricketing career...

He is in a vulnerable position. The United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCB) has made it plain that an all-white side is no longer feasible...

"This is as big a challenge as I have had in my life," Woolmer said. "If I am successful with affirmative-action players over the next year, then my stock will be higher..."

I see success as the evolving of certain disciplines and he [Cronje] is very into physical training...

Above all, Woolmer has a firm belief in innovative coaching. "I would have loved to have played now. I would have trained harder, earned more money..."

When I began as a player in 1968, I greened my flannels and was sent off the field to change them. Now, if you don't dive... well, Colin Milburn would be left out of a Sunday league match these days...

Whether through use of computers, stopwatches, sports scientists or old-fashioned adherence to technique, Woolmer sees his job as to improve, rather than change, the methods of top players...

plans to call upon this summer, would have been better cricketers had they played now...

Woolmer's beliefs are born out of a realisation that he should have achieved more as an all-rounder with Kent and England...

He was not helped by having a reputation as a shop steward. He joined both World Series Cricket and the breakaway tour of South Africa under Graham Gooch...

After the World Cup I shall be writing a book about the science of the game," Woolmer said. "Why, for instance, was the reverse sweep not played earlier? I will be only 51 when I am out of contract..."

When it was Highbury one day and Lord's the next

The football season is over, give or take Arsenal's completion of the double and the dissolution of what Sir John Hall calls "the Georgie nation"...

Once upon a time the mudied out could, by a change of costume, instantly become a flannelled foot. The cricketer-footballer was a splendid fellow and a notable performer...

In the late Sixties, there were quite a few knocking about. Jim Cumbes and Jim Standen, goalkeepers both, played their cricket at Worcester...

Before them came Arthur Milton, Willie Watson and, most famous of all, the brightest star in the firmament, the great Compo. Could Denis Compton have become the great cricketer he was if he played today? Surely money would have talked, as it did when Gary Neville, the Manchester United defender...

er, he started with Tranmere Rovers in 1964 and enjoyed a farewell season with Portland Timbers in the United States 13 years later. It seems a world away now...

In the minds of those who grew up with those players, those winter-summer loyalties remain fresh. Last week witnessed the latest contribution to the confessional sports book list as Colin Schindler...

Lord's to watch Lancashire for the first time. "both of us filled with a passion for the game of cricket, for the county of Lancashire..."

Schindler's book is partly one of frustration but it is also about the joy of discovery and it glows with a sense of wonder. Plenty of people who grew up with both games feel like him, but he wrote his story down. Hurrah for him.



CRIMSON RAMBLER

Oxford stifled by Rawnsley

By Thrasy Petropoulos

THE PARKS (second day of three) Oxford University, with two first-innings wickets in hand, are 148 runs behind Worcestershire

WHEN Byron Byrne carved Scott Ellis over point for a rare Oxford boundary in the 67th over yesterday, he brought up Oxford's hundred. Earlier, Worcestershire had reached their total of 310 for three declared off fewer than 68 overs...

To his credit, Byrne looked to be aggressive and his 69 not out, from 143 balls, helped Oxford to avoid the follow-on. On a pitch taking spin, the students struggled to come to terms with the Worcestershire

attack. Twenty two of the 51 overs to tea were maidens. Something needed to be done to up the tempo and Matthew Rawnsley benefited.

The first of the left-arm spinner's five victims was Pirih, whose drive was palmed by the bowler to Leatherdale at mid-off. The last was Barnes, who edged the final ball of the day to slip.

Oxford's day began badly, when Mather, their opening bowler, arrived with his left arm in a sling after breaking a finger and losing the nail catching Graeme Hick on Monday. He will be out of action for a month.

out at the declaration. WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

Table with cricket scores for Worcestershire and Oxford University. Columns include batsman names, runs, and bowling figures.

MacLaurin renews TV cash plea

By John Stern

LORD MACLAURIN of Knebworth, the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), called on again yesterday for the Government to look favourably on the board's request for Test cricket to be removed from the list of protected sporting events...

Live coverage of all home Test matches is open only to the BBC or ITV, but this situation is under review and a decision from Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, is expected later this month. Also on this list of so-called "crown jewels" are the Derby, the Grand National, the World Cup, the FA Cup Final, the Olympic Games and the Wimbledon tennis finals.

the BBC and BSkyB, 40 per cent owned by News International, parent company of The Times, is in its fourth and last season and has yielded £50 million over the period.

However, the ECB believes that it needs to raise a further £300 million from various sources to continue the "significant progress" that MacLaurin insists has been made in the improvement of cricket at all levels.

and we will not be able to develop further or, at the very worst, continue as we are if we are not able to raise significantly more funding.

In terms of sponsorship, the ECB currently finds itself in a difficult position with Britannic Assurance pulling out of the county championship, Texaco withdrawing from one-day international matches after this season and Axa deciding not to bid for sponsorship of the new national limited-overs league.

He was quick to point out that "it does not mean that Test cricket will be removed from terrestrial television", but it seems likely that if Test cricket is de-listed, some home Test matches would be shown on Sky rather than on BBC.

"We need to strike the right balance between audience and revenue but we will not necessarily sell to the highest bidder," Lamb added. The 56-page report shows the ECB's annual revenue to be £65 million and the verdict of an industrial tribunal against the ECB after the dismissal of a receptionist also gains a mention.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Ryan has to miss Newcastle decider

RUGBY UNION: Newcastle, the Allied Dunbar Premiership leaders, will be without Dean Ryan, their No 8 and captain, for the club's final match of the season, away to Harlequins at the Stoop Memorial Ground on Sunday. Ryan was knocked out during the 20-15 win over Bath on Monday night. Ryan must serve the three-week recovery period mandatory in cases of concussion, which was confirmed by the club doctor yesterday. Newcastle are one point clear of Saracens at the top of the table and the match could decide the championship.

Elson pipped

GOLF: Jamie Elson, 16, the son of Pip Elson, the former European Tour player, yesterday became the first British player for 13 years to win the individual title at the Golf Foundation International week's team championship, but despite his two rounds of 69 at Sunningdale, Kenilworth School finished in third place for England. South Africa, represented by Tyrone van Aswegen and the twins, Wesley and Gareth Botha, won by a single stroke from Australia, with England two shots further back.

Welch blow

BOXING: Scott Welch suffered more frustration yesterday when his European heavyweight championship bout with Axel Schulz was postponed for a second time. Schulz, of Germany, split a bone in his right thumb in sparring last night, forcing him out of his contest with Welch in Leipzig on May 30. Schulz could be out of action for four to six weeks. Welch had to withdraw from the original bout in Dortmund on February 28 because of back trouble.

Karlsson chance

SPEEDWAY: Peter Karlsson, of Sweden, will replace the injured Sebastian Ulamek, of Poland, in the first Grand Prix of the season in Prague on Friday. Karlsson, 28, was left out of the Wolverhampton team this season and is anxious to regain a place in the British League.

BOXING Board acts on issue of weight

IN the wake of the injury that Spencer Oliver's sustained in his contest against Sergei Devakov earlier this month, the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC) will monitor the poundage of all fighters strictly in future.

Oliver's camp have insisted that the blood clot that he suffered during his defence of the European super-bantamweight championship at the Albert Hall could not be attributed to the demands of weight-making. However, John Morris, the board secretary, still believes that it is time to ensure that fighters are not short-cutting their battle with the scales, thus increasing the danger of dehydration and, with it, a greater risk of brain injury.

Morris said yesterday: "We have started a system of monitoring weights for all boxers in each of our eight areas, particularly in championships. I've asked the secretaries to find officials in those areas who will be prepared to go into gymnasiums on a regular basis and check the weights. This way we will know what they weigh when they start training and at the stages they go through to the time they weigh-in, which will give us a much better picture."



RUGBY UNION 38 England accused of sell-out by Australians

SPORT

WEDNESDAY MAY 13 1998

CRICKET 41

Woolmer maintains leading edge in race for equality



EXTRA 10 PAGES

World Cup clues offered

Hodde happy to continue waiting game

By Matt Dickinson

A PALL of gloom enshrouded England's World Cup preparations yesterday, and it had nothing to do with the revelation that Paul Gascoigne enjoys a flag of 20.

While rival countries such as Holland and Germany have declared already their squad for France — indeed Brazil have divulged their starting XI — the England coach is keeping everyone, not least his own players, guessing.

and also prove that others are surplus to requirements. Ian Walker, Rio Ferdinand, Robert Lee, Dion Dublin, Andy Hinchliffe, Paul Merson and possibly even Steve McNamara seem to be in the main danger.

The key to the latter pair's place could rest on Darren Anderton. The Tottenham Hotspur player has yet to figure in Hoddle's senior side, but he would have been leaping up and down with anticipation, hamstring permitting, of course, if he had been witness to the England coach's press conference yesterday.

Yet Hoddle is a committed Anderton fan and is keen to give the talented but fragile player, who won the last of his 16 caps against Germany in the semi-final of the European championship in 1996, a

chance to prove himself in the Saudi Arabia game at Wembley next Saturday and in the Hassan II international tournament in the last week of May, when England meet Morocco and Belgium in Casablanca just before Hoddle names his final squad.

"I wanted to give Darren the best possible chance to get fit," Hoddle said. "In actual match fitness, in terms of getting through the 90 minutes, he's as good as maybe anyone in the squad already. His best form might come out in the coming weeks. He will be fresh. It's the same for Wrighty and Les Ferdinand. It might be a blessing in disguise [that they have missed games through injury]."

"He just needs a bit more match tempo and confidence in his own game. In international football, you've got to have vision and this lad can play with his head up. You can play him wide, off the front, on the left or the right and he's capable of scoring and creating. There are a lot of aspects to his game, which is useful going into a tournament."

While Hoddle was impressed by Anderton's steady performance in Tottenham's 1-1 draw against Southampton, he left White Hart Lane kicking Le Tissier off his list, despite the fact that he scored a hat-trick in the B international against Russia last month. Not for the first time, an England coach had decided that the great maverick was too bone idle for international football.

"He's a talented player," Hoddle said before adding the inevitable rider. "He did some wonderful things on Sunday, but when after 60 minutes the whole thing did not happen for him. He has to improve a lot of things that will make him last 90 minutes. That's where Darren has got something over him."

Joining Le Tissier on the scrapheap was Cole, the Manchester United forward, who was the country's highest goalscorer this season with 25 goals in all club competitions. Too similar to Michael Owen and Ian Wright was Hoddle's reasoning. Stuart Pearce, the veteran Newcastle United defender, Dominic Matteo, of Liverpool, and Ray Parlour were also discarded, the latter with reassuring noises about his future potential.

With Hoddle naming four goalkeepers yesterday, one, probably Walker, of Tottenham, will not be heading for France. Another decision may be made for the England coach with doubts remaining about Jamie Redknapp's knee. Should the Liverpool player fail a fitness test next week and not be up to travelling to the training camp in Spain on Sunday, he will be sent home. That would bring the squad down to 29 — and leave seven more to go.

Under a cloud, page 1 Anderton's chance, page 4 Fit for the final, page 40 Play-off nerves, page 40



Vialli shows the pressure on the eve of Chelsea's first appearance in a European final for 27 years. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Vialli feels heat of the moment

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN STOCKHOLM

DOWN below the Rasunda Stadium, it seemed like bedlam as journalists and television cameras crowded into the small room unfit for dealing with events of the magnitude of the Cup Winners' Cup final. Sitting behind a desk on the dais, Gianfranco Zola tried to calm the throng by reassuring them about his fitness. Unnoticed, in a corner off to the side, Gianluca Vialli sat in his suit and his Chelsea jumper, his head bowed and sweat pouring from his brow.

It was hot down there but when Vialli took his place in front of the media it became clear that it was the pressure of the game here against VfB Stuttgart tonight that was making him perspire. He looked drawn and tense as he discussed what he said was the most important game in Chelsea's history, their first appearance in a European final for 27 years.

Vialli knows that if Chelsea win here in front of 20,000 of their travelling fans, it will not only maintain the momentum that Ruud Gullit established when he led the West London club to their FA Cup Final triumph last season, but that it will also provide them with an adrenalin-fueled platform to mount a realistic challenge for

the FA Carling Premiership title next season. Vialli, though he is still a managerial novice, has already led his team to fourth place in the League and success in the Coca-Cola Cup final last month, but he is aware that victory in a high-profile competition such as this, a triumph that would represent only the third European success for an English club since the post-Heysel return from exile, would go even further to establishing Chelsea as one of the European elite.

He made all the right noises about the fact that Chelsea have had a wonderful season already and that merely reaching the final — which will be decided by the golden goal if the match goes to extra time — was achievement enough. But his whole demeanour, the unsmiling countenance that he showed from the moment he checked in at Heathrow airport with the rest of his players yesterday morning to the time when he strode out onto the rutted and bone-dry pitch here on the outskirts of the capital, betrayed the importance that he and the club attach to the fixture.

If he is fit, he will probably start in attack alongside Vialli, who is the second-leading goalscorer in the competition.



That may mean that there is only a place on the bench for Mark Hughes, the veteran striker, whose goal took Chelsea past Vicenza in the semi-finals and who won the Cup Winners' Cup for Manchester United against Barcelona seven years ago.

"It is the most important match in Chelsea's history," Vialli said. "They played their last European final 27 years ago and it is a great achievement for us to be here. We have had an excellent season and now it would be good to make it an extraordinary one. Even if we do not win the game we have to be happy and we have got no regrets. Every year Chelsea is improving and this is another step forward."

"I hope this match is going to be like a celebration for a very important moment in the history of Chelsea. So far the build-up has felt almost as exciting as the run-up to the Champions' League final I played in with Juventus three years ago. If we win, the

feeling of achievement would almost be the same as that. I just hope we can keep improving year after year. That is what I want and it is what the club wants. I think the future can be even better than the present.

"To win the final would give us great confidence for the future. It would make the name of the club even more known in Europe. It is the most important game for us because it represents the next step forward. From here, we can become one of the best teams in England and in Europe."

If Chelsea fulfil Vialli's dream tonight, he may be given a chance to test their pedigree sooner than he expected. The victors will play the winners of the European Cup in the autumn. That could mean a reunion with Juventus, a test indeed.

CHelsea 11-4-2: E. de Grey — S. Clinton, F. Leboeuf, M. Duxbury, G. Le Stur — D. Poyet, G. Poyet, D. Wise, R. Di Matteo — G. Vialli, G. Zola. VfB Stuttgart 11-5-2: F. Wehrhahn — T. Schneider, T. Berthold, M. Garmann — M. Haber, Z. Sedes, K. Bekasov, G. Poschke, M. Hegner — F. Bode, J. Alencar. Referee: S. Strösch (Swy).

ENGLAND SQUAD table listing players, clubs, caps, and goals.

Crossword puzzle titled 'TIMES TWO CROSSWORD' with grid and clues.

ACROSS 4 Spear-pole: vertical passage (7) 5 Cratory (8) 8 Peaceful (4) 9 Study of bodies in motion (8) 10 The aristocracy (6) 13 Move very fast, powerfully (6) 14 Improvises: prepares to bowl (4,2) 15 Old parish officer (6) 18 Passage round S. America (4,4) 19 Peg for sermon (4) 20 Ruler: speed regulator (8) 21 Edmund and Philip were Father and Son (5)

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP advertisement for crossword titles.

FA dismisses Shearer charge

By Matt Dickinson

THE swing of Alan Shearer's boot that caught Neil Lennon in the face was a "genuine attempt to free himself" by the England captain, according to the Football Association three-man commission that found the misconduct charge against him not proven yesterday.

Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, ruled that there was a case to answer, but it was thrown out yesterday after two hours of deliberation in which Shearer was represented by Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, and defended by Lennon himself, who, indeed, ended up taking some of the blame.

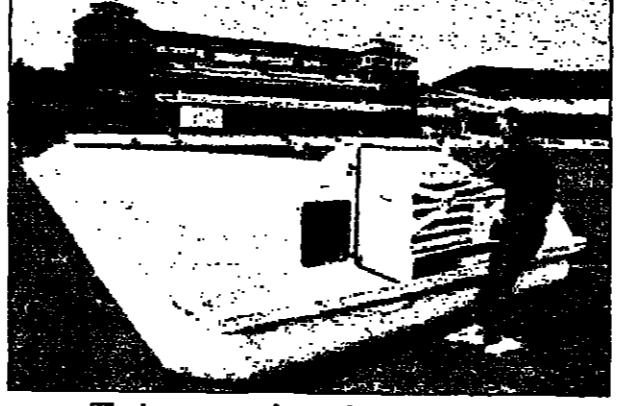
reaching its decision, accepted that the incident was initially caused by Neil Lennon pulling at the shirt of Alan Shearer, turning round and trapping his leg. The commission further accepted that the alleged incident of Alan Shearer swinging out with his left leg was a genuine attempt to free himself.

An FA statement said: "The three man FA commission, in reaching its decision, accepted that the incident was initially caused by Neil Lennon pulling at the shirt of Alan Shearer, turning round and trapping his leg. The commission further accepted that the alleged incident of Alan Shearer swinging out with his left leg was a genuine attempt to free himself."

It's less bover with a hover at Lord's

By Simon Wilde

FOR once, spectators may be praying for rain when they attend the championship match between Middlesex and Somerset at Lord's today. If the skies open, they will be treated to the sight of the world's first "hover cover", which operates on the same principle as a hovercraft.



The hover cover is put through its paces onto the playing area by a tractor. It has no wheels to damage soft turf. MCC believes that covering could be completed inside two minutes — a quarter of the time taken to pull on four conventional covers last year.

preserve bowlers' run-ups are also available but will not be used until groundstaff are familiar with the apparatus. Once the cover is on the pitch, the motors will be switched off and two internal battery-powered ventilators circulate air to keep the pitch free from damp.

SPRING OFFERS advertisement listing travel deals for Paris, Amsterdam, Prague, Rome, and Barcelona.

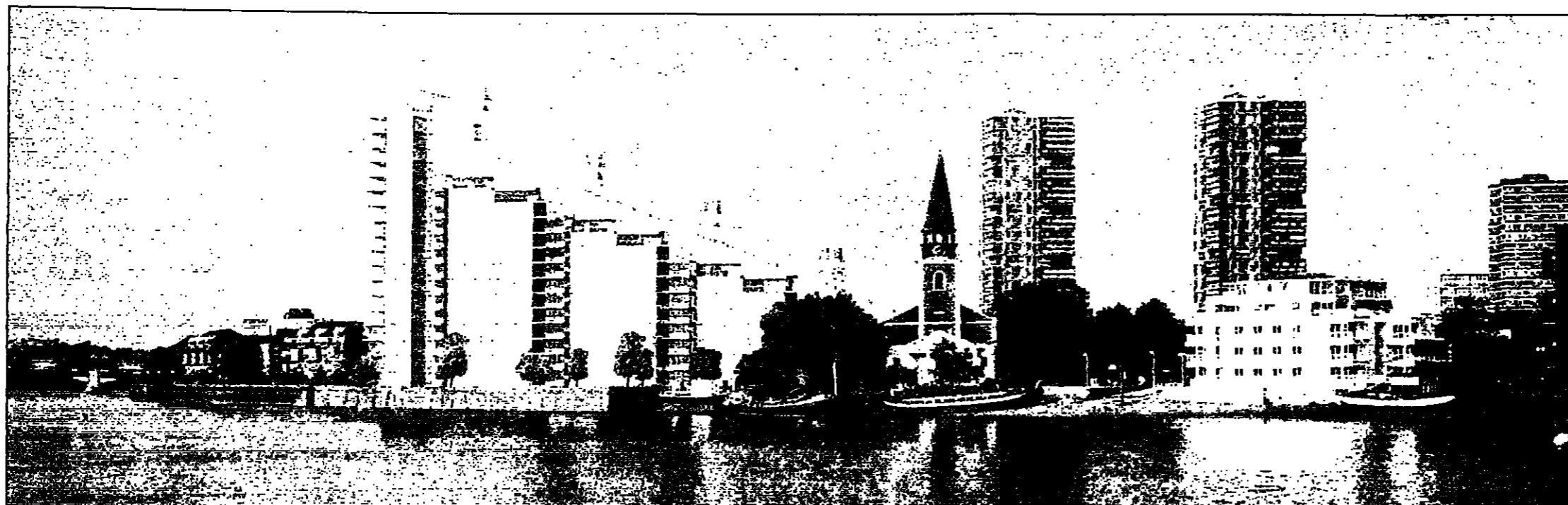
Large advertisement on the right side of the page, partially obscured, with text like 'Discover', 'Definit', and 'Crafted'.

EXTRA
10
PAGES

THE TIMES
People & property

WEDNESDAY MAY 13 1998

Battle for the river's skyline



An artist's impression shows how Lord Rogers's controversial Thames-side Montevetro development in Battersea will look from the Chelsea bank. Conservationists say St Mary's church will be dwarfed

Despite vociferous objections from Kensington and Chelsea Council and the Chelsea Society, work has begun on the glass and steel Montevetro development in Battersea, south London. Trimmed with terracotta, this slender, wedge-shaped mountain of glass will slope from 20 to three storeys. It will stand next to the historic parish church of St Mary's, where William Blake was married.

The developers employed a classic method of ensuring planning permission: they used a big name architect, in this case Lord Rogers. The scheme, which should be completed next year, will be one of many high-rise schemes which are changing the Thames skyline.

Sir Norman Foster is planning other developments down river. Although his first application was refused, he still hopes for planning permission for Albion Wharf, a proposed development of 277 flats

on a four-acre industrial site near Battersea Bridge.

Next door, the Hong Kong developers Hutchinson Whampoa are considering plans for Thames Walk Apartments, a glass zig-zag rising to 20 storeys in a crescent. Millbank Tower in Westminster is for sale and could also become high-rise homes by the river.

At North Woolwich, Barratt has unveiled plans for Barrier Point, a circular 18-storey riverbank tower complete with restaurant overlooking the Thames Barrier. The developers talk of the building's "sleek, ultra-modern" design and buyers' desire for contemporary homes.

But at Kew, a high-rise scheme by the developers St George was turned down. The Kew Riverside Development was dismissed on appeal by the Secretary of State on the grounds that the two blocks would have harmed the appearance of the riverside.

The Kew decision has been welcomed

Rachel Kelly on the row raging between conservationists and developers over high-rise buildings on the Thames banks

Characteristically, it is residents who live across the river from these schemes who find their views most affected. David LeLay, chairman of the Chelsea Society, says of the Montevetro development: "If Richard Rogers can get planning permission, breaking every rule in the planning book by building 20 stories instead of six, then we are opening the floodgates to other architects to do the same. Famous architects should practice within the rules."

"Tall buildings, especially on the river, diminish its apparent width by towering over it. If we line the river with them the Thames will seem an insignificant stream, not a great river. Montevetro hits the river at an angle, making it even more intrusive. What's more, it now totally dominates the church."

But what of the developers' cry that these new buildings are modern masterpieces? After all, the Anglo-Italian Lord Rogers designed the Lloyd's building in the City and the Pompidou building in Paris.

Mr LeLay says: "If a building is to be a landmark, it should have a landmark use. Traditionally, our skylines were dominated by church spires and town halls. Every devel-

oper will claim that theirs is a landmark building."

People will pay high prices to live with a view of the Thames. Although the sales office for the Montevetro building is a box on the edge of the construction site, more than half of the 103 flats have already been sold for prices from £230,000, though the double-height penthouses are still for sale. The river frontage which was once lost to industrial buildings will sport a new walkway and the setting of St Mary's will be surrounded by landscaped gardens.

Schemes to convert existing high buildings are inevitably less controversial. For example, Knightsbridge military barracks could become flats. It is one of the most valuable pieces of real estate in London, according to Stephan Miles-Brown, head of residential development for agents Knight Frank. One solution to the high rise debate is the approach suggested by the London

Planning Advisory Committee (Lpac). It recommends the construction of towers in clusters through the capital. A report last month says towers are needed to solve London's acute housing shortage. Building upwards, especially around Tube stations, would prove environmentally friendly by reducing car journeys, Lpac argues.

By defining areas for higher buildings, and grouping such towers together, existing proportions could be preserved elsewhere. The public ultimately could and should determine the future of highrises and Lpac awaits your views as it drafts advice to the Government Office for London. The future of the Thames could depend on spilling some ink.

High buildings and strategic views: draft strategic planning advice is free. Lpac is at Artillery House, Artillery Row, London SW1P 1RT, and welcomes views before July 10, to Martin Simmons, chief planner, 0171-222 2244.

INSIDE

SELLING POINT?
How to send your buyer packing
Page 2

PLAYING CLEVER
New homes near foreign courses
Page 3

BRUSH STROKES
Are they what they were?
Page 9

Discover the world's most desirable address?



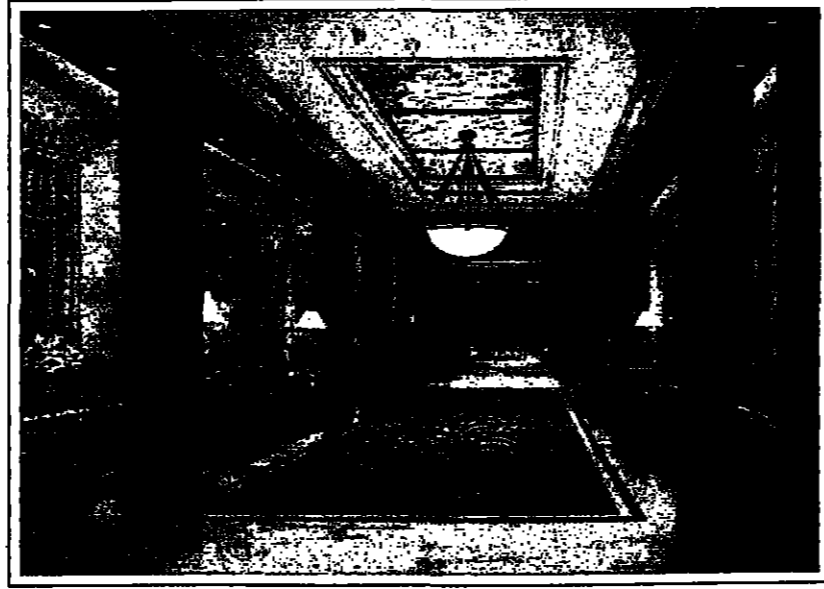
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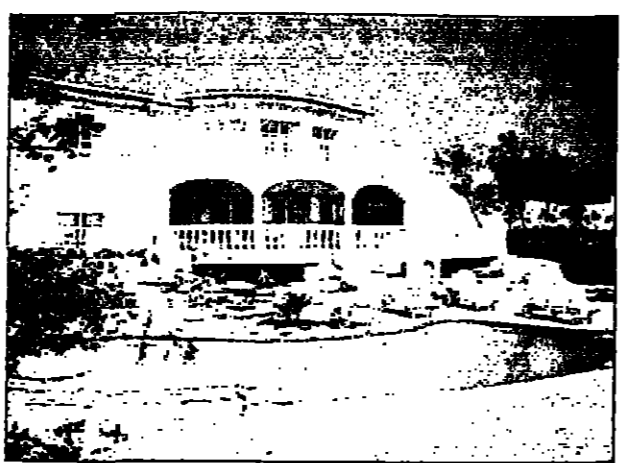
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BUYING ABROAD

PORTUGAL

BRITISH buyers are returning to Portugal, buying up villas at developments along the Algarve off plan. Demand has soared over the past year...



Villas for golfers at Parque da Floresta can cost £200,000

Empty nesters flying south

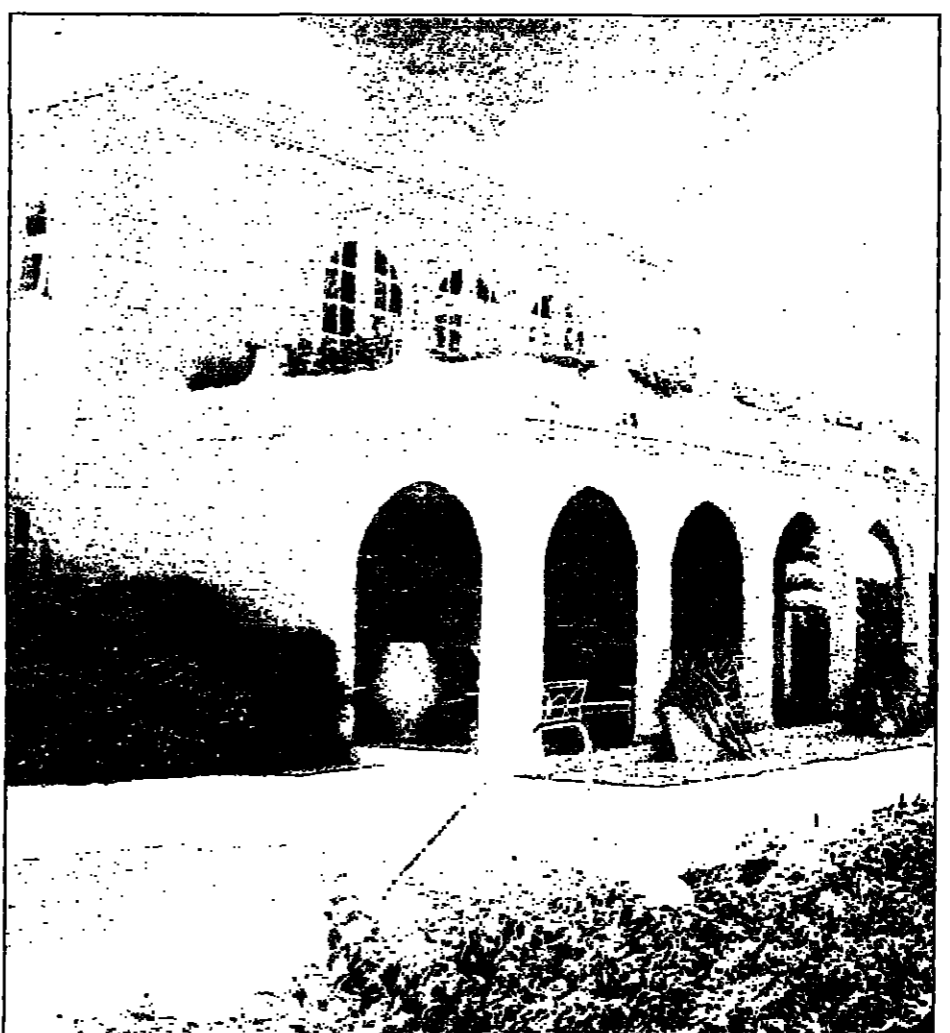
A new breed of buyer is settling on the Algarve. By Amanda Loose

Prices range from £115,000 for a one-bedroom apartment to £210,000 for a three-bedroom town house built around a traditional-style 18th-century Portuguese square...

Smart money is on sun isle

Foreign investment is flowing into Barbados. Ivo Tennant finds a home near a golf course is the lure

IT is the most expensive real estate ever put on the market in Barbados, an island that is attracting a seemingly ceaseless flow of foreign investment...



The Royal Westmoreland, where 280 houses are being built around a golf course

Coral Reef, which might take over its status as the finest hotel on the island during its closure for 17 months...

PROPERTY

Real estate listings for North of the Thames, London Property, and New Homes, including properties like Brook Green W14 and Woodford Green.

ELEGANT MEWS HOUSES advertisement for Dairy Mews, featuring a large photograph and descriptive text about the development.

ONE advertisement for 1 Bed Galleried Loft Apartments and 2 Bed 2 Bath Galleried Lofts, featuring images of the properties and contact information.

CONVERSIONS

Eve-Ann Prentice appreciates the transformation of a former office block into luxury flats by the Thames

FIFTIES LONDON

Home is where the art is for the first occupants of a former office block that is being transformed into luxury homes overlooking the Thames in Fulham, West London.

The Piper Building, which used to belong to North Thames Gas, is decorated with murals by John Piper, the artist who designed stained glass windows for the cathedrals in Liverpool and Coventry.

The vivid artwork, which depicts a theme of energy and joie de vivre, has undergone an extensive clean-up as part of the renovation that has given the building a new lease of life as a five-storey state of the art apartment block.

These are homes for people who want a room with a view - inside and out. Anyone who buys one of the fifth floor flats has access to a roof terrace from where it is possible to see across almost the entire capital, from Hampstead in the north to Crystal Palace in the south and Canary Wharf and beyond in the east.

Inside, rooms with ceilings nearly 14ft high and enormous balcony windows nearly 12ft tall have been cunningly interspersed with mezzanine floors. These platforms, often linked by spiral staircases, form dining and bedroom space in the futuristic apartments. The overall effect is, as you might imagine, of a luxury space cruise-liner of the future. Most of the flats have been completed and the entire development is well on the way to being finished.

The rooms are so light and airy that Allan Halliday, a protégé of Piper, has set up a studio in one of the apartments. These have been designed by the architects Lifschutz Davidson, who also designed the Oxo Building further east along the Thames.

About half the 77 apartments have been fitted with kitchens, bathrooms, mezzanine decks and staircases, and half are being sold as shells. The ready-fitted flats have hardwood light oak floors, slate



The Piper Building, which used to belong to North Thames Gas, features a half-acre roof garden and murals by John Piper

Rooms with a view of art

tiles on bathroom floors and even steel to please Pierre Marco White in the kitchens. The one, two, three and four-bedroom apartments all have access to an outside balcony or private patio, and all residents will have access to one of the largest roof terrace gardens in London.

Nearly half an acre of the first floor roof is being planted with a hedge and rowan trees, and pebble walkways surround a timber deck area. The joint developers, Crispin Kelly and Try Homes, say the £230,000 terrace will include a section for children (and adults) to play in; parts of it will be set aside for those who want to find a secluded corner.

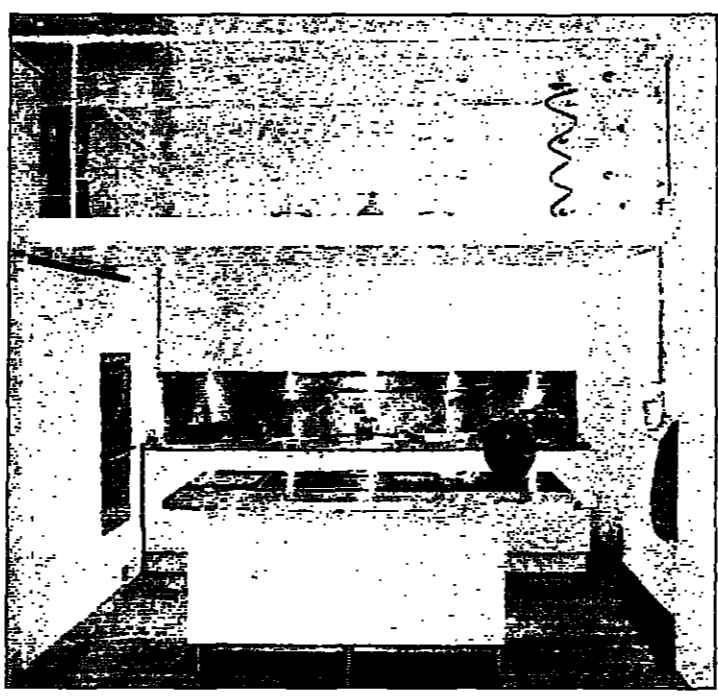
At night lights will be filtered through the trees upwards on to the four storeys of apartments surrounding the terrace. "It will be a fantastic suntrap and, unlike many roof gardens, it will not be windy because it is not high and exposed," Mr Kelly says.

The first of the Piper Building's new residents moved in before Christmas. Others have been moving in gradually since then. Dan Ing, a fighter aircraft engineer from Hong Kong, bought one of the fitted flats in January. "The number one attraction for me is the location," Dr Ing says. "They also have a very good architect and I like the interior design. My family and I have a home in Barnes and I shall use this as an office and somewhere to stay when I am working in town. I have been very impressed with the after-sales service."

Each flat has a dedicated parking bay included in the price. More than 50 of the apartments have been sold and 25 are still for sale, most of them as shells.

Seven fitted flats are still available through the selling agents, Savills and Egerton. Prices for a 999-year lease range from £275,000 to £465,000 for shell units, while fitted three-bedroom flats start at £330,000.

For information call 0171-736 2871.



The futuristic kitchen in the show apartment has a walkway above

Reach to the converted

Revamped office blocks are where it's happening. Andrew Mylius reports

A REAPPRAISAL of Sixties architecture is under way in London, and with it has come a somewhat shocking realisation: people actually want to live in it. Converted Sixties commercial space is next year's big idea. A handful of schemes have been marketed already, but there are many more revamped and reinvigorated buildings on architects' drawing boards and computer screens. This is going to be Britpop on a huge scale. Richard Artus of Urban Spaces says that the revival is fuelled by a rediscovery of miniskirts and white patent boots. But this does not explain why people will pay £100,000 to £500,000 for structures of concrete, steel and glass that would have been vilified little more than a decade ago.

Geoff Marsh, who heads London Residential Research, has surveyed the market for more than 20 years. He traces a line from 1970s loft developments to late 1990s office-block conversions. "Clever developers bought redundant commercial spaces for very little, did them up for less and marketed them brilliantly," he says. In the post-industrial city centre of the 1980s, the loft provided avant-garde domesticity pumping with "raw urban adrenaline".

"Ordinary Brits found they could move from the suburbs - where the cost of housing was low, but the cost of commuting high - to Clerkenwell, and it was a financially equal package. Meanwhile, a brigade from the Continent, Asia and the US, used to a more city-centre lifestyle, thought 'we like this' and did it, too." There was such a strong impetus into the centre that the raw material for lofts - Victorian or pre-war factories and warehouses - was by 1994

SIXTIES LONDON

in short supply. Having reclaimed the city centre, by 1996 it was necessary to rediscover height to satisfy the demand for housing. "Height is the antithesis of John Major's village green and warm beer. Still, people are voting for it with their cheque books," says Mr Marsh.

London has enough empty office space to accommodate the combined full office space of Birmingham, Coventry and Leeds. Rendered obsolete by changing business technology, its conversion to residential use is more energy and cost-efficient than demolition. Some 250,000 new homes are needed in inner London by 2016. There is planning permission for only 75,000. In Mr Marsh's view, "if planners don't tolerate high-rise, they're not going to fit everybody in".

Ian Learner, a developer, thinks urban vitality depends on creating a critical density, and wants London to pulsate like Paris or Manhattan, which crant two million people into 27 and 23 square miles respectively. In 27 square miles of central London - from Shepherds Bush to Aldgate, say - there live a paltry half million.

Jonathan Meades, the broadcaster and journalist, is a missionary man about town. "We need cities. Not as places of work or fabrication, but as dense social concentrations, interpersonal exchange centres, protracted fun palaces, and of the very quality that is etymologically bound to cities - 'civility,'" he said in a lecture at the National Gallery recently. And we need an architecture that reflects this cool, cultural, 25-hours-a-day groovy place.

'We need cities, not as work places but protracted fun palaces'

PRIVATE SALES

A grid of 40 real estate listings for private sales. Each listing includes a title, a small photograph of the property, and a brief description of its features, location, and price. The listings are organized in a 4x10 grid. Some listings include contact information like phone numbers and agent names.

FOR DETAILS OF OUR NEXT PRIVATE PROPERTY FEATURE PLEASE CALL 0171 481 4000

A vertical strip of real estate advertisements on the right side of the page. It includes several small property photos and text descriptions for various homes, some with prices and contact details. The text is partially cut off and difficult to read in many places.

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 - Highcliffe Gardens - 4 and 5 bed homes at Woodley, Near Reading. Price range: £257,500-£299,500. Call 0118 959 7171
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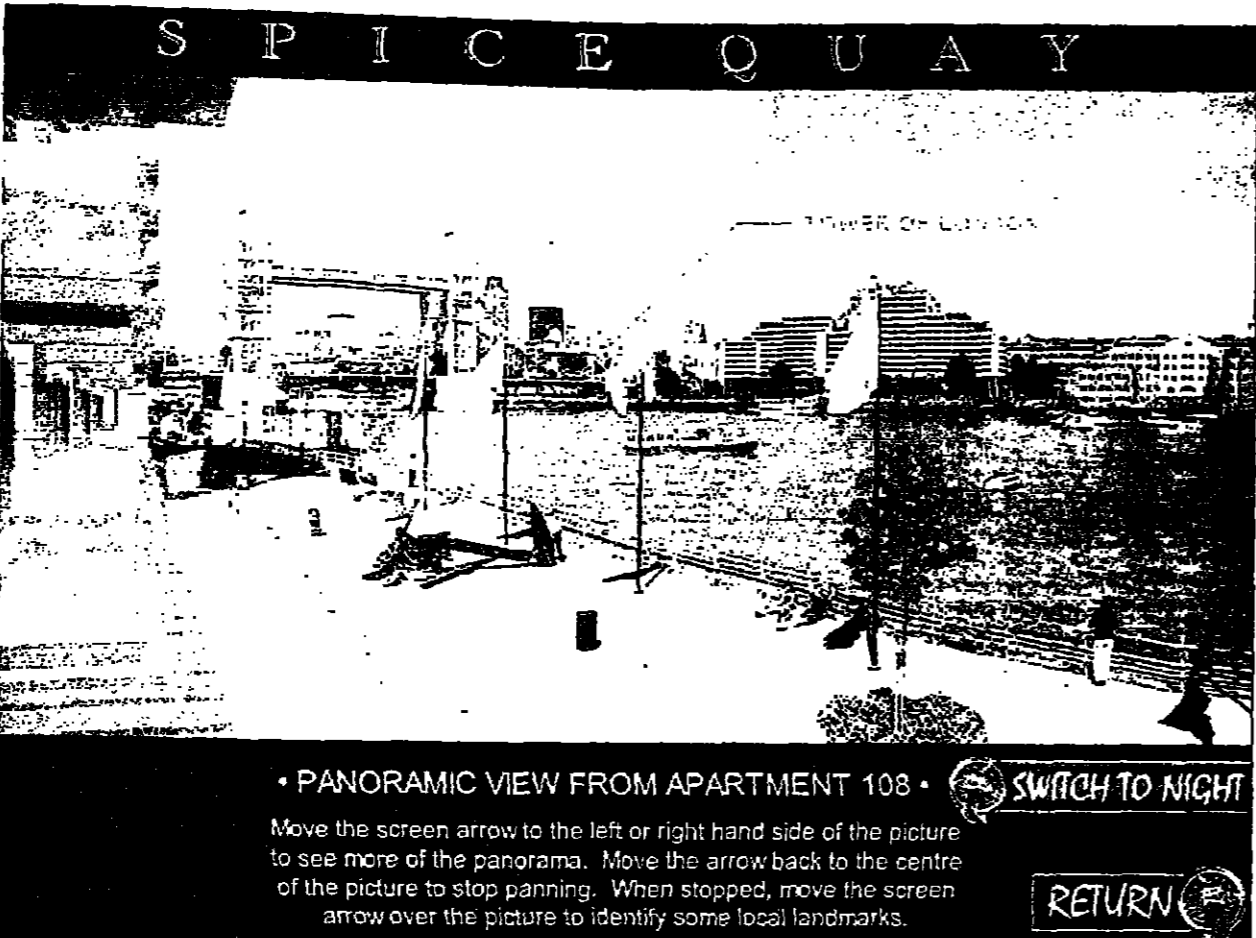
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DIGITAL DEVELOPMENTS

At home through the looking glass

Eve-Ann Prentice experiences the heights of luxury via a computer model



PANORAMIC VIEW FROM APARTMENT 108

Move the screen arrow to the left or right hand side of the picture to see more of the panorama. Move the arrow back to the centre of the picture to stop panning. When stopped, move the screen arrow over the picture to identify some local landmarks.

Virtual reality: computer images give buyers a bird's-eye view from the Spice Quay development near Tower Bridge

Developers of new luxury flats near Tower Bridge in London have made computer models that give would-be buyers a Peter Pan perspective on the apartments.

At the click of a button, viewers can soar inside and outside of the buildings on the computer screen to obtain a bird's eye look of the Spice Quay apartments and the river at Butler's Wharf. The computer model, which cost more than £20,000 to make, has been such a success for

VIRTUALITY

Galliard Homes that an upgraded version is being developed for the company's White House on the South Bank.

The Spice Quay development is close to Terence Conran's Le Pont de la Tour restaurant, where Tony Blair and Bill Clinton dined with their wives soon after the Prime Minister's election victory last May. The computer tour of the flats, which cost from £400,000, whisks the

viewer from above roof height to the main entrance, sweeps inside and provides views of kitchens, bathrooms, living rooms and the river.

The Interactive Visualisation System (IVS) was designed by Stuart Rutter of Manchester-based HRA, and took 12 weeks to complete.

"The photography was a project in itself," says Mr Rutter. "A photographer went on site with a crane and measured where he would be from each flat and how far he could see to the left, ahead and

to the right from each one. In the IVS system at the White House, the visuals are even more realistic. The fly-through and other elements are more sophisticated; they look more like photographs than computer images.

"Has it been worthwhile? "Nearly all the apartments have been sold off-plan," says Mr Rutter. There are 92 apartments and penthouses at the seven-storey Spice Quay, 23 of which are still for sale.

Spice Quay, 0171-378 0474; the White House, 0171-620 1500

TECHNOLOGY

WALK down any high street in the evening and you are certain to find a group of people clustered around an estate agent's window. Some will spend several minutes browsing through the pictures on display, with either a look of bewilderment or eagerness.

But it is a fairly futile exercise, for both the potential housebuyer and the estate agent, few people return to follow up any interest that might have been generated.

All that is now changing as an increasing number of estate agents install touch screens in the window allowing customers to seek the property of their choice even when the office is closed.

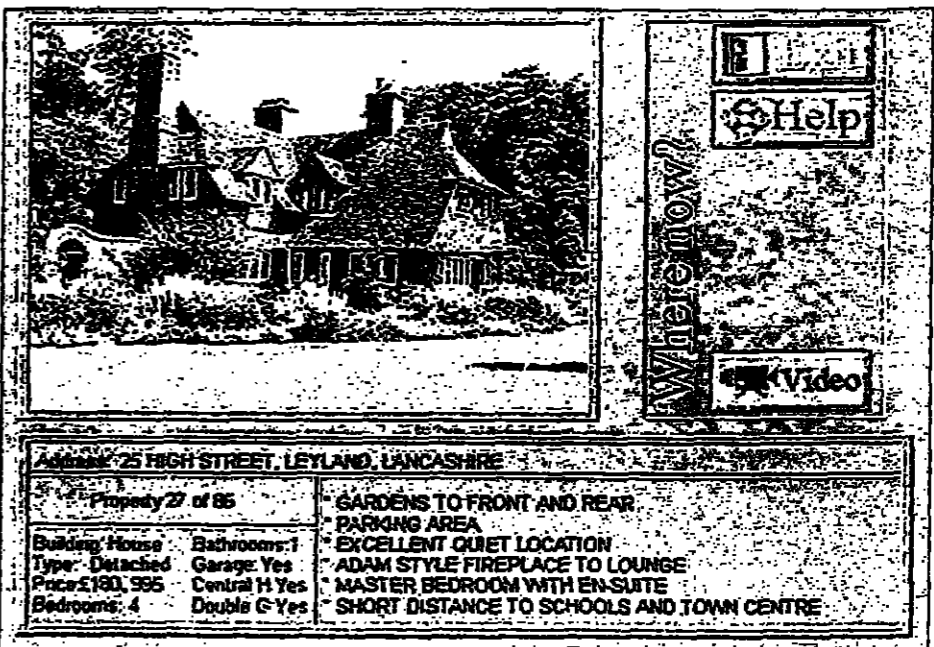
By simply touching the window, customers can call up a series of options on a screen directly behind it and be guided to the type of flats or houses that appeal to them. They can stipulate the number of bedrooms and the size of garage and garden they are seeking. They can even leave their details and arrange viewing through the interactive technology.

Martin Walker, the managing director of Walkers estate agents in Brentwood, Essex, says: "Our office window is the same size as all our competitors, but by using the TouchIT system we can advertise every instruction that we have, which is something that nobody else can offer. Our competitors display 30 properties in their window, whereas we now have a window of 400 homes."

He says the company has gained many new clients on the strength of the system because it is easy to use and gives a powerful presentation.

Grays of Shropshire has distributed leaflets to publicise the introduction of this service at its offices. They show a couple looking at a screen, with the man asking: "Anything good on the telly tonight, love?" His partner replies: "Yes, our house. I've just put it up for sale."

The publicity material says: "You wouldn't be surprised if your estate agent asked people what area they wanted, what price range they were looking for and the type of house they wanted and then showed them a selection.



This is the view that awaits potential buyers when they activate the software

The gentle touch that helps to catch more customers

Interactive screens can give potential buyers access to hundreds of homes, says Tony Dawe

You probably would be surprised if they did all that while they were closed."

The TouchIT system has been developed by Imagina-

tive Technologies Limited (ITL) of Ley-

land, Lancashire, using ThruGlass. This involves a sensor resting behind the glass or plastic that responds as a finger approaches the front surface and sets the screen into motion.

ThruGlass is one of several computer touch devices created by MicroTouch, a leading world-

wide manufacturer. In addition to the window screens, ITL has delivered hundreds of TouchTV systems, which offer a similar

service but sit inside estate agents' offices. Companies say the equipment saves time and money because the ability to study properties in more

detail helps buyers to be more selective.

TouchTV is now being refined, with videos of properties becoming available, also at a touch of a finger. This latest boon for buyers and agents is on trial at Marshall Warren of Felixstowe, Suffolk, where Richard Stewart, the managing director, says: "As soon as my co-director and I saw the technology and used the system ourselves, we were sold on the idea and agreed to the trial."

"We had to find a local video production company to produce a short tape for each property, and that was worthwhile because we are left to get on with selling homes." The videos are converted by ITL into a format suitable for TouchTV and then downloaded onto the agent's system. They run for between 30 and 50 seconds and several have already been installed on the Marshall Warren set.

The company has gained many new clients on the strength of the new system

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PROPERTY

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Lettings Directory Association of Residential Letting Agents. Includes ARLA logo and contact information for various agents.

NEW HOMES

Bewley Homes Quality Homes of Distinction. Farnell Mews. Only two remaining. Includes photos of the development and contact details.

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Excellent property above... COTE D'AZUR... COTE D'AZUR...

AYLESFORD INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS. CHELSEA OFFICE, KENSINGTON OFFICE. Includes contact details for Catherine Cockcroft and Beth Cook.

ARLA Association of Residential Letting Agents. Provides financial security through a clients money bonding scheme. Sets strict criteria for membership and operates a stringent code of practice.

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M MARLER & MARLER 6 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9LF. Provides contact details for the firm.

CHESTERTONS 6 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9LF. Provides contact details for the firm.

SULLIVAN THOMAS 361 Fulham Palace Road, London, SW6 6TA. Provides contact details for the firm.

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LONDON PROPERTY



THE CITY QUAY

New apartments for sale at St Katharine's Dock

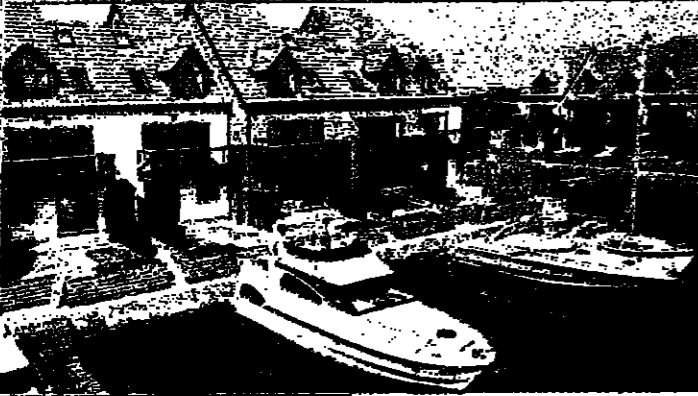
Genuinely spacious and west facing apartments all with large balconies and marina views, prices from £250,000. For further information please call the on-site sales office on 0171 481 9898 or fax on 0171 481 0364.

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Teletrade

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, likely from an adjacent page or a separate advertisement, mentioning 'S' and 'HARRISON'.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page for 'artilleryman' featuring the text 'LAUNCH THIS WEEKEND'.

PAINTING & DECORATING

Television threatens traditional craftsmen

Jennai Cox on the shows that may destroy painters and decorators' livelihoods

DO-IT-YOURSELF

Skilled decorators are in danger of becoming an extinct species. The recent plethora of DIY television programmes, such as the BBC's *Home Front*, *Real Rooms* and *Changing Rooms*, and *Hot Property* on Channel 5, has seen demand for their work plummet.

Harry Levinson, who runs Hampstead Decorative Arts in London teaching traditional decorating techniques, says courses such as his have been sidelined in the rush to DIY. It is not the popularisation of decorating that has done so much harm, he says, but the lack of choice. "There is a stream of decorating which is very 'oh darling, let's buy some green glaze and have fun with it,'" Mr Levinson says.

"Some people can be very talented with it, but there is no craft base. It almost says 'don't make the effort to learn a craft, it is all very difficult'."

Techniques taught by Mr Levinson require the long-term learning and mastering of certain brush techniques and control, he says, resulting in a finish far superior to those shown on some of the television programmes, for which only very basic skills are required.

Techniques such as marbling, graining, rag-rolling, exotic stenciling, stippling and gilding, verdigris, decoupage, etched metallic finishes, imitation old plaster walls, fresco effects, malachite and dragging can be learnt, but they take time. There is no national institution such as the Institut Supérieur de Peinture Decorative de Paris (Ipedec), or any co-ordinated approach to keeping the traditional skills alive.

For example, some of the splendid simulated mahogany and marble interiors in old buildings could fade, he says, and there will be no one able to restore them.

Certain techniques have already been lost, according to the Victorian Society, which highlights the plight



Graham and Maxine Walsh demonstrate how to do it yourself in the BBC's *Home Front*

of old buildings. "You only have to look at the matching and replacing of some structures to see they are not as good as the originals," Richard Seedhouse of the Victorian Society says.

There are some interior design courses, according to the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas), in which the techniques would be touched upon, but none which specialises in them. "Craft training in Britain is in a very poor state," Mr Levinson says. "There are lots of courses and popular books, but it is not easy to learn it thoroughly."

While he admits that his methods — for example, imitating marble on

a column — would take longer and cost £300 compared with around £50 if done more quickly, Mr Levinson claims he would probably cost no more than other decorators if hired by the hour.

Bob Clarke, of the Worshipful Company of Painter Stainers, which holds an annual exhibition of craftsmen's work, says the slap-dash television approach can even put people off decorating altogether by making it look too easy. "Painting on the television looks all very nice, but often doesn't come out quite so well when you try it yourself," he says.

Daisy Goodwin, the producer of *Home Front*, says she has featured traditional techniques and rejects suggestions that the programme is merely a makeover show.

"We aim to give viewers enabling advice, not just an instant fix," she says. "And I care very much that we show people how to do things properly. But if they want to learn something as difficult as marbling, which would take hours, they really need to buy a book or video."

● *Hampstead Decorative Arts courses: 0181-248 2811. The next exhibition of the Worshipful Company of Painter Stainers is at Painters' Hall, London, on June 9. Details: 0171-236 7070.*

Another inside story from the trade: what goes on when you get the decorators in. As told to Eve-Ann Prentice

PAINTER'S TALE

I AM asked to paint things in awful colours all the time. I have just done a job in Maida Vale and the woman was away while we spent the week painting room after room this really bright pink. We painted three rooms, all in the colour she chose, then she came back on the Friday afternoon and said: "I don't like that." And she couldn't afford to change it. It had made me feel sick painting it.

But you meet some lovely people. I was working for these Indian people, they were the nicest people I have met in my life, as it happens. This was a posh house and I had done the outside and was starting on the inside. Money was no object in fact, they were forcing it on me.

I was left to carry on and do what I wanted and they had this grand piano, it must have been worth thousands. I had put dust sheets everywhere, but I had to stand on the piano to reach the ceiling and, as I was climbing on it, the lady walked through the door. All she said was "Would you like a cup of tea?"

You get people who want a well-known brand, such as Dulux, then you buy cheap stuff and put it in Dulux cans so you make a few quid on that. Then there is wallpaper, you charge a tenner a roll and say you need 30 rolls when you only need 20, because they don't know how many you have used, do they?

If I decorate at home, it is under duress. If I get £300 for decorating a room, and spend time decorating a room at home, that is £300 lost.

WE like playing jokes on one another. One place, we had nowhere to hang coats and stuff and I was asked to put a few nails in the wall. I got a hammer and nails and picked every garment up and nailed them to the wall.

You get some funny customers. I built a stage for a geezer in a pub and to test it he got the fattest people he could find to jump up and down on it. I was insulted, so I added £50 to the bill. That said, I have been out of pocket for people who are skint because I always have extra paint and wallpaper left over from jobs. Basically I work for people who



Just gloss over the mistakes

are hard up for nothing.

Sometimes it all goes wrong. I just lost a job painting ceiling tiles in a shop. The paint didn't take and it looked worse after I finished, even after four coats. But once you start you have to finish. That job cost me money.

You can make good money if you know your job. I also have a Star of David ring, which I had made and I am sure I get money from wearing it because Jewish people see it and assume I am one of them. We were £300 more than anyone else on a quote once but we got the job — probably because of the ring.

We have a laugh. We were painting a ceiling and the fellow I was working with was only about 4ft 10in. When the scaffolding boards went up we had to

set them to suit him or he couldn't reach. I had to duck down, so now and then I would jump down and the board bounced him up and he hit his head on the ceiling. Things like that is why men work.

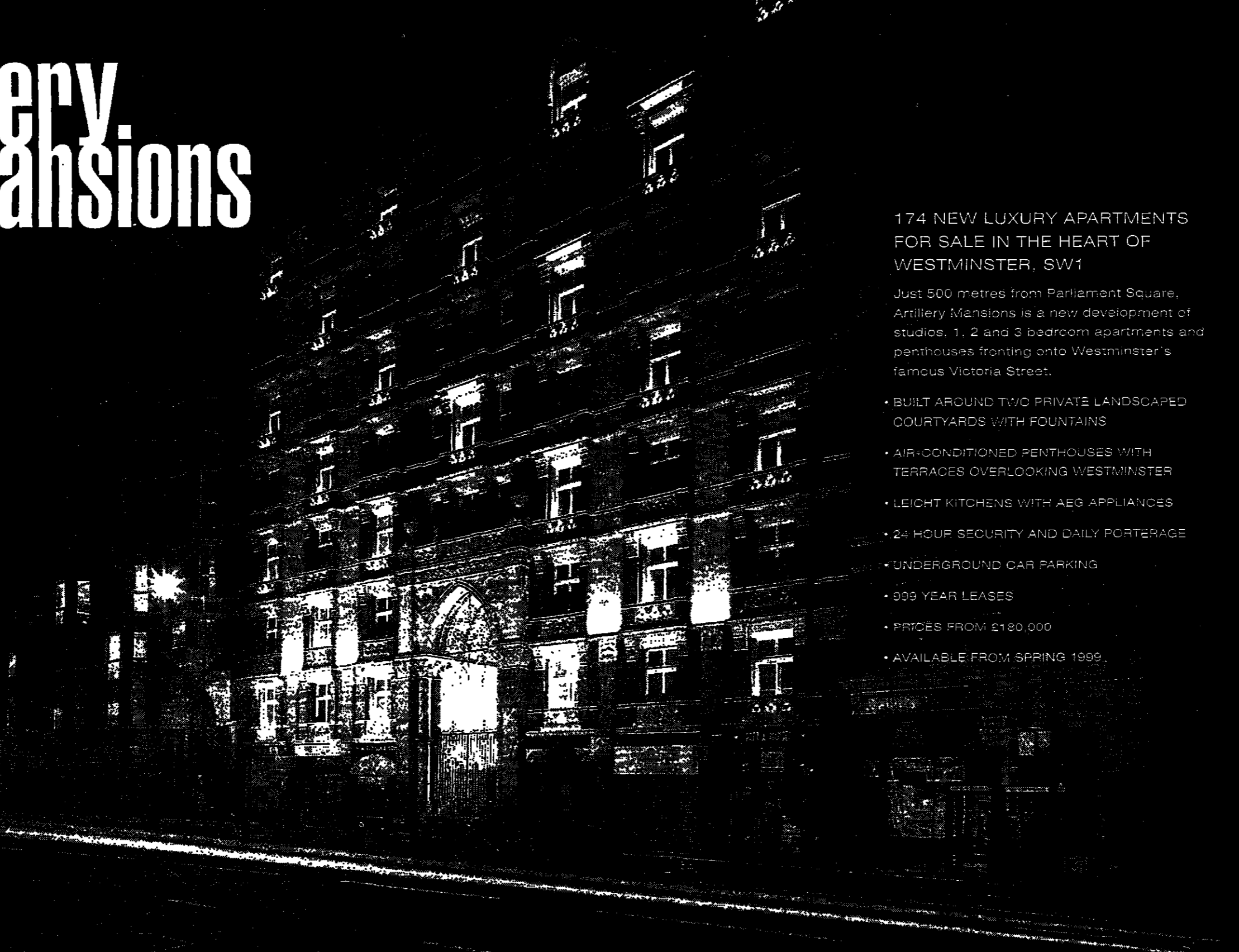
If you work with the right crowd, there is no problem going to work... it's unreal sometimes. If a woman turns her back, you usually make rude gestures.

I was working with a geezer one day in a house that was the business, and we were glossing up. My mate balanced the paint kettle on a ledge because he couldn't be bothered to fetch a ladder. Next thing we know, the paint has tipped all over this posh carpet. We managed to get most of it cleaned up and luckily it blended with the carpet.

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No. 00.201
page 21

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